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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE LITTLE SEED.

THE Executive Committee appointed to make arrangements for the anti-state-church conference held their first meeting on Thursday last. The business transacted was, of course, of a preliminary character. To the fact of their meeting, without any reference to what was done at so early a stage of their sittings, we may, perhaps, be allowed to advert in a few words.

It is needless to observe that we witnessed the event with peculiar satisfaction. To the contemplative mind—to the mind interested in the object sought to be accomplished, capable of appreciating its stupendous magnitude, able to scan the heights, and depths, and lengths, and breadths of the question at issue, and duly impressed with the vast and interminable consequences which the peaceful settlement of it involves—the bare fact is well calculated to suggest various trains of thought, and to stir up deep emotions, not only of a pleasurable kind, but profitable withal. Here, then, is a beginning; but where is the seer who will venture to predict the end? Whatever may come of the movement in its present shape, none acquainted with the laws of mind, and with the modes in which truth operates upon the human heart, can believe that it will ultimately terminate short of its object. What shall be its course? Of the men who met together for the first time on Thursday last, how many will live to see the realisation of their hopes? Through what changes are they destined to pass ere any one of them shall touch the goal? What will become of their instrumentality? In what manner will it affect the interests at stake? What are the labours—what the anxieties—what, peradventure, the sufferings through which it will be the lot of some of them to move on to success?

"The vast, the unbounded prospect lies before us,
But shadows, clouds, and darkness, rest upon it."

The responsibility of these gentlemen we take to be one of the most onerous which ever devolved upon an equal number of men—one, the weight of which might well make them stagger in distrust of themselves. That they will feel the pressure of it we cannot doubt; and if they do feel it—if they apprehend aright their position, and bear in mind how easily, at this incipient stage of the movement, a wrong bias may be impressed upon it—they will be tremblingly careful to exclude from their consideration every end which falls short of truth. All the little prejudices which cling about their hearts, the resolute hand of conscience will strip off. The very whispers of those passions which may troop at their heels at other moments, will be silenced as soon as the committee room is entered. Each one will command a hush of all the disturbing influences which are wont to gather about his inner man—and, from amidst the clearest and most noiseless tranquillity, it will be his aim to let the small still voice of duty fall in silver tones upon his ear. Summoning all his powers to reverent attention, he will keep his eye upon the eye of truth—that through it he may glance, if possible, into her very soul, and catch the gentlest beamings of her spirit. He will listen to the oracle which speaks from the inmost recesses of the living temple—and as he hears, so he will act. Thus only can they satisfactorily to themselves discharge their responsibility. They can see but a little way before them. Their united wisdom is unequal to the greatness of the occasion which has clothed them with office. Their counsels, to be safe, must

be not their own. Their acts, to be successful, must be acts imposed upon them by superior authority. Taking truth as their mistress, and demeaning themselves as her servants, having commission to do nothing but as they may receive it at her hands, they may go forward with cheerful confidence. They will have performed their duty—they will not be held answerable for events. Their step may be firm—their spirits equable—their faith implicit. An honourable post has been assigned them, and that post they will thus occupy both with honour and with advantage.

Two or three features which distinguish the present executive committee may be referred to at this time, as offering, independently altogether of the character of the individuals composing it, a guarantee for its efficiency, and, therefore, a ground of hope for dissenters.

The mode of its election is the first of those features upon which we shall remark. Its constituency was a tolerably wide one—and every member of it, by the act of becoming such, was pledged to a sincere movement for effecting a separation between the church and the state. They were not canvassed. They had no opportunity of acting in concert. Each voted according to his own judgment—to all practical purposes, moreover, voted by ballot. The result of their decisions, when scrutinised, is the present committee. It is not, therefore, in any sense, a clique. It is responsible to its constituents. It can have no fore-determined purposes of a private or party nature to carry out, beneath the guise of public professions. To this we have more than once called attention, and assuredly, to our minds, it is a circumstance which inspires us with considerable confidence.

It is worthy of notice, also, that the object, functions, and limitations of this committee are too clear to be misunderstood. It is provisional only—its duty is to prepare for a conference—and that conference is to be called with a view to promote, by all wise, peaceable, and Christian means, a separation of church and state. Its acts, therefore, provisional though they be, must necessarily be in harmony with the end for which it has been elected. It cannot consistently, even if it were so disposed, choose for itself any other or less important object. This is the one mark to which, through means of a conference, it is bound exclusively to look. Other ends may be important, but it is to this that the attention of the committee is to be confined. They cannot, it is true, anticipate the decisions of the body they are about to call together; but, in preparing the business to be laid before that assembly, they are under obligation to regulate all their proceedings by a simple reference to the express object of their constitution. The influence with which for a time they have been invested cannot honestly be exercised to turn the present movement into a channel for a "redress of grievances," or for the protection of the civil interests of dissenters. They have set out, commissioned to seek the emancipation of Christian institutions from secular control. They are the first organised body in this country, claiming to be representative of the dissenting mind, which has been framed with this especial and exclusive end in view. As such, we are disposed to believe that their acts will be as simple and direct as is their avowed purpose.

Finally, the important acts of the committee will be subject to the revision, and influenced by the control, of those members of it who reside at a distance. All that is done will be subject to the judgment of men of high character, living apart from each other, and able therefore to review whatever may be proposed with an unbiased mind. This circumstance alone will render cabal impossible. The constitution of the committee is such as not to admit of a wheel within wheels. It will be impracticable for a little knot, by any previous combination, to overbear the calm opinions of their colleagues. It is not implied that this would be attempted, were the way fully open to success—but it is not the less satisfactory to know that it could not, even if it were attempted, accomplish any private or party ends. The perfection of the machinery may be a ground of confidence, irrespectively of the high character of the individuals appointed to superintend its working.

Such then is the executive committee appointed to arrange for the proposed anti-state-church conference. Its first meeting we deem to have been

an event worthy of especial notice. The little seed thus committed to the soil—to what strange, unlooked-for, and important results may it not hereafter grow!

THE BASSINGBOURNE BURIAL CASE.—This case, the particulars of which have appeared more than once in our columns, came on for hearing in the Arches court, on Wednesday, before Sir H. J. Fust. The matter was, however, again adjourned. The following amusing colloquy took place between the judge and Dr Phillimore, counsel for the defendant, Mr Chapman, rector of Bassingbourne, in the course of the argument:

"The first point, therefore, was, whether this baptism was heretical or schismatic? Secondly, if so, what was the effect of such baptism? And there was a third question, namely, whether a member of an independent congregation could proceed, under the canon, against a clergyman of the church of England, to punish him *pro salute animæ*? The learned advocate then proceeded to show what was heresy, defining a heretic 'one whose opinions were opposite to those of the established church,' and a schismatic, 'one who separated himself from the true church'; and he cited the statutes 1 Elizabeth, c. i. 29 Car. II., the councils of Constantinople and of Chalcedon. The effect of heretical baptism he showed from St Augustin, and that it required something to be done before a person so baptised could be admitted into the bosom of the church.

"Sir H. J. Fust: Do you mean to contend that heretical baptism is no baptism at all?

"Dr Phillimore: No; it is good after certain ceremonies are performed. The ceremony of baptism is not required to be performed over again. There are deficiencies in the performance of the rite which must be supplied. Here is a heretic putting forward a canon of the church against a clergyman *pro salute animæ*. We do not interfere with the civil rights of the party; this is no question as to a civil right, but as to a spiritual right. I do not say that the party is not a Christian.

"The Court: Then she is entitled to Christian burial.

"Dr Phillimore: certainly, in their own cemetery.

"The Court: Then it is compulsory on such persons to provide cemeteries for themselves?

"Dr Phillimore: My argument is, that you cannot permit a heretic or schismatic to put in motion a canon of the church for punishing a clergyman for the good of his soul.

"The Court: Is this child a heretic?

"Dr Phillimore: Yes, in one sense.

"The Court: I can understand why a child who has not been baptised at all should not have burial; but I cannot understand how a child should be refused burial because it is a heretic.

"Dr Phillimore: The child was baptised in heresy and schism.

"The Court: The canon excepts such as 'have been denounced excommunicate *majore excommunicatione* for some grievous and notorious crime.' Has this child been so denounced? You do not distinguish between the effect of heresy and schism on the party administering the rite and on the party to whom the rite is administered.

"Dr Phillimore: The party deceased is excluded from a spiritual rite by the fault of her parents."

DR HOOK'S CHURCH EXTENSION SCHEME.—As far as we can learn, there is no probability whatever that this extraordinary scheme will be carried into effect. It is in the highest degree distasteful to the evangelical church, as well as to every denomination of dissenters; and it is looked upon as a scheme to expend £40,000 or £50,000, and in the end perhaps £100,000, for the purpose of breaking up existing congregations, restoring the intolerable restrictions of the old parochial system, and burdening the public with the maintenance of superfluous clergy.—*Leeds Mercury*.

THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND—ST AUSTELL.—On the 21st January, Mr Mackenzie, deputation from the Free church of Scotland, preached at St Austell, in the baptist chapel in the morning, and in the Wesleyan in the evening, to full congregations, which evinced their sympathy in the cause advocated on a former evening by Mr Fairburn by again liberally contributing to the building fund for the Free church. Mr Mackenzie also visited Mevagissey in the afternoon, and addressed a crowded congregation, in the spacious Wesleyan chapel recently opened there, the independent chapel and others being closed for the occasion of all attending. A very liberal contribution followed.

The contributions to the Free church from Exeter amount to nearly £200; from Plymouth and Devonport, £235 19s. 7d.

THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS of the University of Glasgow have unanimously conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws on Mr R. W. Hamilton, independent minister, of Leeds.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE WEST OF AFRICA COMMITTEE.—There is no doubt that the West of Africa committee will be re-appointed, and will speedily resume its inquiry into British slave-trading, under better auspices.—*Patriot*.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Corn Laws, against repeal, 1.
Redress of Grievances, 4.
St Asaph and Bangor Dioceses, against union of, 1.
Window Tax, exemption from, 5.
Sunday Tolls, ditto, 1.
Tea, reduction of duty on, 1.
Poor Law, for alteration, 1.
State of Ireland, for inquiry into, 1.
Coal Duties, against increase, 2.

PUBLIC BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

BILL PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Offences at Sea bill.

Horse racing Penalties Repeal bill.

BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

Factories bill.

IN COMMITTEE.

Metropolitan Improvements bill.

BILL READ A THIRD TIME.

Metropolitan Improvements bill.

MOTIONS.

Ameers of Scinde—"That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to take into her consideration the situation and treatment of the Ameers of Scinde; and that she will direct their immediate restoration to liberty, and the enjoyment of their estates, or with such provision for their future maintenance as may be considered a just equivalent."—(Lord Ashley). Ayes, 68; noes, 202.

Scinde—"That the thanks of this House be given to Major general Sir Charles Napier, Knight Grand Cross of the Most honourable Order of the Bath, for the eminent skill, energy, and gallantry displayed by him in the recent military operations in Scinde, particularly in the two decisive battles of Meane and Hyderabad."—(Sir Robert Peel.) The previous question was put by Mr Sharman Crawford:—Ayes, 164; noes, 9. Original question put and agreed to.

Publication of the Debates—"That a select committee be appointed to consider the expediency of recognising the publication of debates, under the pleasure of the House; and to consider and report what regulations may be necessary."—(Mr Christie.) Ayes, 37; noes, 84.

DEBATES.

Thursday, February 8th.

THE AMEERS OF SCINDE.

Lord ASHLEY called attention to the situation and treatment of the Ameers of Scinde. After citing, as the ground of his own interference, an opinion of Sir H. Pottinger in their favour, he took a short retrospect of their early history, and referred to treaties of amity between them and this country, down to the year 1838. The object of our negotiations had throughout been the navigation of the Indus, which, under certain restrictions, we had thus obtained. No doubt the conduct of the Ameers toward the army of Sir John Keane was a dishonest one; but at Khelat they had made amends by a truly cordial co-operation. The increase of our difficulties did not diminish their friendship, even when their hostility might have done much towards crushing us. They had now been charged with treachery; but he could find no proof of it; though he admitted that they were desirous of getting rid of the English from their country. They had been accused of writing treasonable letters, but they denied the charge, and asked why those letters were not produced to them? Not merely the forms of law, but the substance of justice, required such production. He urged the improbability that the Ameers should have intended treachery when they had taken none of the precautions which might have been expected to accompany such a design. He enlarged upon the policy of public virtue, exhorted Great Britain to pursue it, and concluded by moving an address to her Majesty, praying that she would take the subject into consideration.

Mr ROEBUCK said, the real question was, at what time that policy commenced which had made these evil steps inevitable. Until 1834 the proceedings of the British government had been directed to the fair object of enlarging our commerce. Even until 1838 we had kept the tiger's paw within the velvet. Then we tried to establish a commercial agent in Scinde, and, the Ameers naturally dreading us, we had put the screw upon them, by threatening them with Ranjeet Singh. They gave way, and our agent was established at Hyderabad. Upon Lord Auckland he charged the injustice and the want of wisdom which were now developed. The year had hardly ended when we entered into the tripartite treaty which provided that Shah Soojah should renounce his claim upon the Punjab, pay tribute to Ranjeet Singh, and forbear from any attempt upon the Ameers, on condition that they should pay him a sum to be settled by the mediation of the English; he being all that while a mere puppet of the English, who supplied him with the only means of hostility which he possessed. And then Lord Auckland had the hardihood to pretend to the Ameers that he would endeavour to prevail on Shah Soojah to accept a reasonable amount. The means proposed for so prevailing on him, were horse, foot, and artillery, which Col Pottinger proposed to have ready, for the sake of the moral effect they would produce. A letter had been written by the Ameers of Hyderabad to the Shah of Persia, which Lord Auckland chose to consider as an offence against the British power; and this was to be made a reason for transferring their dominion to another family of Ameers more friendly to Britain. Mr Roebuck read a letter from Colonel Pottinger to Lord Auckland, recommending that troops should be stationed in certain parts of Scinde, which measure would establish the supremacy of Britain as effectually as if she possessed the whole country of Scinde. A new treaty was now imposed upon the Ameers; and the party who first broke it was the British government. The Ameers now tried evasion; and well they might, when they felt the serpent coiling closer round them, and preparing

finally to crush them [loud cries of "Hear, hear"]. After a condemnation of the route chosen through Scinde to Afghanistan, he adverted to the difficulty of the position in which Lord Ellenborough found himself on succeeding to Lord Auckland amid the unexampled disasters of that time. On learning what the Afghans had done against the British force, the Beloochees of Scinde were inspirited, under the injuries they had sustained, to hope much from the adoption of a similar course. Thus there was now an extensive conspiracy throughout India to break down the power of England; and Lord Ellenborough had the anxious question to decide, whether, after retreating in Afghanistan, we were also to withdraw from Scinde. The resolution he formed was justifiable, although it was so only by the vast and dangerous necessity under which he was placed. Mr Roebuck likewise vindicated Sir C. Napier against some criticisms which Lord Ashley had made upon his notes on Major Outram's letters; called upon Sir C. Napier's country to give him in generous measure the praise which was due to him under his heavy responsibility; and read a letter addressed to Major Outram by Sir C. Napier himself in justification of the course adopted. Mr Roebuck concluded with three resolutions, which, however, found no seconder.

Mr EMERSON TENNENT considered that the policy of Lord Auckland was completed by the treaty of 1839; and that, therefore, Lord Ellenborough's own views, and not Lord Auckland's previous policy, must be deemed to have produced the measures since taken against the Ameers.

Sir JOHN HOBHOUSE animadverted with a good deal of pleasantness upon Mr Roebuck's speech and upon his proposed resolutions, to which he himself had never, in his five-and-twenty years' experience of parliament, seen anything similar. He justified the arrangement under which the Ameers had paid a sum of money to Shah Soojah, and defended the entry into Afghanistan.

Commodore NAPIER praised the course taken by his relation in India, and inveighed against the Ameers for their treachery, cruelty, and injustice.

Sir R. PEEL enforced the recommendation of Sir J. Hobhouse, that the House should give all possible credit to the motives and to the conduct of men administering great public functions in distant quarters of the world. To the motives of Lord Auckland the fullest credit was due, even from those who might differ from him in his policy. He feared that when civilisation came into contact with barbarism, it was hardly possible to enforce precisely the same maxims which applied among the states of modern Europe. It was difficult when Russia was intriguing against England in India, to say calmly—I look at my Vattel and my Puffendorff, and I refrain from marching my troops across a neutral territory. He would deal the same general measure to Lord Auckland as to Lord Ellenborough; but Lord Ellenborough was entitled also to the benefit of the argument derived from the circumstances in which he was placed by preceding acts. When he arrived in India a material change had already been made in the general constitution of Scinde; British ascendancy had been established there, and the feudal system of its chiefs abolished. The independence of Scinde was, in truth, at an end. There had been great reverses in Cabul, which it was important to counteract. Among other states, commanding armies of 30,000 or 40,000 men, Lord Ellenborough perceived a growing disposition to shake off the power of Britain, which the events in Cabul had led the natives to regard with diminished consideration. If you established the principle, that an Ameer shall not be responsible for the treachery of any minister of his, of whose tendency to bad faith he has had full notice, you might bid farewell to your Indian empire. To Lord Ashley's motion the government could not consent. He trusted the House would not take the responsibility of advising what measures should be taken at the distance of 5,000 miles. If this motion were adopted, every one of these Ameers would be set at liberty—to revisit Scinde, to resume his revenues, and to enter into intrigues of all kinds.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL agreed that it would be difficult to affirm this motion. He could not undertake the responsibility of giving a vote which might involve consequences so dangerous to the peace of Scinde. Still, the suddenness of these Indian events, and the height from which the Ameers had fallen, entitled them to every possible indulgence.

Mr HUME said he would vote for the motion, though he should have liked it better if it had gone further. He condemned the seizure of Scinde as utterly discreditable to the British character.

Lord Ashley replied, and the House divided. Against his motion, 202; for it, 68. Majority against it, 134.

Monday, Feb. 12th.

SCINDE—THANKS TO THE ARMY.

Sir R. PEEL moved a vote of thanks to Sir C. Napier, and the officers and men under his command, engaged in the conquest of Scinde. He entered into a sketch of the conquest of Scinde. At Meane, Sir Charles Napier (who, in his original despatches, had done himself the injustice of overrating his own force, and underrating that of his enemy) had encountered twenty-two thousand fierce and determined antagonists, who occupied a formidable and skilfully chosen position, with only about two thousand men; and though at the battle of Hyderabad the British force had been increased to 5,000, and the enemy was reduced to 20,000, the victory was a signal one. But unrivaled as was the military science displayed by Sir Charles Napier, it was surpassed by his prompt and unrivaled civil sagacity. He was one of three brothers, who, by their exploits, had

written their names on the brightest page of their country's history, and were a striking illustration of the Napier family motto: "Ready, ay, ready!" Sir R. Peel adduced two or three instances of the "deeds of arms" which have made the Napier famous; and passing once more to the conquest of Scinde, declared his determination to avoid all discussion of the policy which had led to the annexation of the country, but which at any fitting future time he would be ready to defend. The authority of Lord Auckland and Sir John Keane was sufficient to show the difficulties in which Sir Charles Napier was placed by the long continued dissimulation of the Ameers, who, while pouring out "fulsome professions of devotion," were planning the destruction of the British interest and power. The military skill of Sir C. Napier was not his highest praise; still greater applause was due to the moral courage with which he had acted on his own judgment against urgent advice, and hazarded his own life and his own reputation. For such exploits, he thought the House would be unanimous in their thanks. Lord John Russell seconded the motion.

Lord HOWICK assented to all the praises bestowed upon Sir C. Napier as a general; but he felt it a duty, as Sir C. Napier was not merely a general, to withhold any concurrence in the proposed vote of thanks. Every step politically taken against the deposed princes was substantially determined by Sir C. Napier, through whose eyes alone Lord Ellenborough saw at the distance at which he was placed. Therefore Sir C. Napier's conduct as a soldier must be estimated, not by itself, but in conjunction with his measures as a statesman and a negotiator; and these he could not approve. He did not believe in that "uncontrollable principle," between civilisation and barbarism, which Sir Robert Peel had been so cautious as to announce on a previous evening. The eternal rules of truth and justice did not change their nature with locality; and in the solemn belief that war was an offence to God, he was not one who viewed with satisfaction such bloody scenes, brilliant though they might be, as Meane and Hyderabad. The withholding of the vote of thanks might be a great moral lesson to the commanders of our fleets and armies, and, under that impression, were he sure of support, he would move the "previous question." But as he was satisfied he did not carry with him the feelings of the House, he would rest contented with having relieved his own conscience by the performance of what had been to him a painful duty.

Mr VERNON SMITH, after complimenting Lord Howick for the good taste and good feeling he had displayed, expressed his regret that Sir Robert Peel had not taken an opportunity of expressing a due sense of the services of Major Outram.

Sir HENRY HARDINGE remarked that this very attack upon Major Outram's residence was a sufficient answer to Lord Howick's objection that there was no declaration of war in Scinde.

Mr MANGLES questioned the conduct of Sir C. Napier, who, he thought, had not exerted himself to prevent the collision with the Ameers.

Mr HAWES concurred in opinion with Lord Howick. Though not wishing to detract from Sir Charles Napier's military reputation, he yet felt that the conqueror of Scinde was too much mixed with the equivocal policy by which we had acquired it.

Sir CHARLES NAPIER rose, and in his characteristic manner, which excited the alternate laughter and cheers of the House, gave a sketch of the "feats of arms" of his distinguished relative, of a considerable portion of which he had been a witness. At Corunna, in his first field, he was covered with wounds, and had fallen into the hands of Marshal Soult, who nursed him, and sent him home without exchange to his friends; and from that period up to his last extraordinary exploits in Scinde, he had evinced throughout unbroken energy, military courage, and skill. He also approved as much of the policy he had pursued as of his "fighting propensities." True, there was no declaration of war against the Ameers of Scinde; but declarations of war were not the practice now-a-days: we fought with China five years without a declaration of war. Scinde was not like Europe or England; the climate would cut up an army in a few days; and nothing but promptitude saved his gallant relative from being surrounded by some sixty thousand men, and his entire force cut off. Sir Charles Napier was blamed for differing with Major Outram in opinion: but political residents were actuated as much by ambition as generals; if the one thought of glory by the sword, the other was actuated by that of the pen; and Sir Charles Napier, in relying on his own judgment, followed the course which had testified its wisdom in its results.

Mr CHARLES WOOD re-affirmed the principle laid down by Lord Howick, on the authority of Mr Huskisson, that no officer should be thanked unless engaged in a formal, recognised war.

Mr SHARMAN CRAWFORD expressed his surprise that Lord Howick, after the arguments he had used, should not have contemplated going to a division. Disapproving of the policy of approving of these wars, and wishing to mark it, he would supply the deficiency by moving the "previous question."

Mr BROTHERTON seconded the amendment.

Mr ESCOTT could not afford to argue this question on "precedent." The circumstances were unprecedented, and led to an unprecedented victory. He hoped they would divide, in order that it might be seen how many there were in a British House of Commons niggardly enough to refuse the meed of approbation to those who saved us from danger and difficulty.

Dr BOWRING, disapproving of all aggressive wars would defend his vote on that principle.

Lord PALMERSTON gave his cordial support to the

proposed vote of thanks. He would not inquire into any of the questions of policy. He saw a brilliant victory by British troops, almost without precedent for the disparity of the conflicting forces. There was no analogy between this case and that of Navarino: the victory there was over a power with whom we were not, either then or afterwards, at war: it had been truly described as a mere accident. He gave his vote on the military question only, reserving himself as to all the political matters.

After a few words from Mr MILES STANLEY,
The House divided,

For the original motion 164
For the previous question 9

PUBLICATION OF DEBATES.

Mr CHRISTIE brought on a motion for a select committee to consider the expediency of recognising the presence of strangers at debates, under the pleasure of the House. Commencing with the "long parliament," which precluded its members from publishing their speeches without permission, he gave a sketch of the struggle of privilege with popular opinion, ending at last in the tacit permission to publish the debates under the anomalous regulation which endures to this day. After citing his instances, and urging that the capital embarked in newspapers, their competition, and the complete machinery established for reporting, gave sufficient assurance of care and accuracy, he entreated the House to concur with him in opinion as to the propriety of formally recognising the publication of the debates, seeing that under the present state of the law, a member can be proceeded against for sending his speech, or notes of it, to a newspaper.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER could not see what was Mr Christie's precise object. Under the present system of toleration, every practical advantage was already obtained, both of accurate publication of debates, and of the presence of strangers, which the motion sought to procure. The "standing order," directing the Sergeant-at-Arms to take strangers into custody, applied, as he understood, to intruders into the body of the house. Were the publication of debates recognised, the House would probably be inundated with petitions, complaining of inaccurate statements, which would not only occupy time, but provoke an additional amount of discussion; and it was not expedient to part with the power of clearing the House, as circumstances might arise, when its assertion would be convenient and requisite.

Mr THOMAS DUNCOMBE remarked, that the motion did not contemplate the abolition of the power of the House over its debates. The object was simply to put an end to this constant war with privilege in the publication of the debates; and it was fitting that the absurd anomaly should be removed, when the Chancellor of Ireland and the Attorney-general, in the recent state trials, appealed to the reports of the debates in official and legal transactions.

Mr WILLIAMS and Dr BOWRING supported the motion, which was opposed by Sir GEORGE CLERK.

The SPEAKER explained, that the right to exclude strangers does not depend on any sessional order, but is inherent in the House.

A division then took place—

Against the motion	84
For it	37
Majority against it	47

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—On Wednesday Lord Palmerston, in consequence of the very unsatisfactory statement of Lord Aberdeen, gave notice that on Thursday, the 22nd instant, if no other important business intervened, he should move, "That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, representing that this House, sharing the deep abhorrence with which the people of this country regard the slave trade, most earnestly beseech her Majesty not to consent to any alteration or modification of any of the treaties now in force between her Majesty and foreign states for the suppression of the slave trade, which, by weakening the means which these treaties now afford for the prevention of that piratical offence, might tend to render more easy the perpetration of so detestable a crime."

EDUCATION.—Mr Wyse inquired of the Home Secretary whether it was the intention of her Majesty's government to ask, during the present session, for any enlarged grant of money, or whether he would adopt any other means to extend the benefits of education? Sir J. Graham said that he was not prepared to answer the question of the right hon. gentleman. It was not the intention of her Majesty's government to ask for any increased grant of money. With regard to the orders in council passed on the subject of education, there were some orders on the subject which would be produced if the right hon. gentleman chose to move for them.

Mr Cobden is to move for a select committee on the effects of protective duties on the interests of farmers and farm labourers, on the 20th inst.

On Monday Mr Ferrand gave notice that he should propose as an amendment to the motion of the hon. member for Stockport—that the committee be also directed to inquire into the effect produced upon the wages of the manufacturing operatives by the immigration of agricultural labourers into the manufacturing districts at the requisition of the mill-owners; also, if the representations which had been made to those labourers to induce them to immigrate were true, and if the agreements entered into with them had been fulfilled; and also the effect which the increase of machinery had produced upon the wages of the manufacturing operatives.

COMMERCIAL TREATIES.—Mr Ricardo is to move

resolutions with respect to commercial treaties on the 20th inst.

BRAZIL.—Mr Labouchere has notified, for the 22nd instant, a motion on our commercial relations with Brazil.

Mr BONHAM.—On Thursday, Mr Divett accused Mr Bonham, storekeeper of the Ordnance, before the House of Commons. Mr Bonham is active in electioneering matters: Mr Divett and Sir Gregory Lewin agreed to "pair," to save the trouble of voting against each other at the last London election; but after that was arranged, somebody told Mr Bonham that Mr Divett was not on the register; Mr Bonham wrote to Sir Gregory Lewin; Sir Gregory, apprising Mr Divett, went to the poll, and Mr Divett came up from Exeter to vote against him. Mr Bonham never acknowledged the mistake. He moved an address to the Crown, praying for Mr Bonham's dismissal from office (much laughter and ironical cheering). No seconder appeared. Sir Robert Peel, moving the adjournment of the House, vindicated the character of his friend Mr Bonham, and stated, on the authority of Mr Russell Ellice, that the mistake originated with Mr Baring's committee. Mr Bonham had expressed his regret to Sir Gregory Lewin. Mr Leader testified to Mr Bonham's integrity; and so little of a virulent politician was he, that he had voted for Mr Leader at the last Westminster election. The House adjourned.

THE POOR LAW.—The House of Commons, having been counted out on Friday night, met on Saturday, when Sir James Graham took the opportunity of briefly stating the alterations he intended to propose in his bill for the amendment of the Poor law. As there was considerable difference of opinion on the abolition of the Gilbert unions, he would not now propose to abolish them, but would move, on another day, for a select committee to inquire into their operation. The bastardy law, in its present shape, had occasioned great dissatisfaction in Wales and in the north of England, and he had introduced into this bill a provision, by which, on application being made within 40 days from the birth of the child, there should be power given to two magistrates to make an order of maintenance upon the putative father, operating not only against his goods, but against his person. This order would proceed upon the oath of the mother, fortified by some corroborative evidence. Another subject which needed the interference of parliament, was the want in large towns of some place of refuge for destitute persons, who now had no shelter but under walls and porticos. He would propose to establish asylums, where such persons should receive not only shelter, but food at night and food in the morning, on condition of working for four hours.

POSTPONING THE SUPPLIES.—On Friday evening Mr S. Crawford gave notice, that on that day week, upon going into supply, he would move an amendment, that the consideration of the estimates be postponed.

THE STATE CHURCH.—Mr Hume gave notice on Monday, that if the honourable member for Sheffield brought forward the amendment, of which he had given notice, to the motion of the honourable member for Pontefract, he (Mr Hume) should propose an amendment to the effect that a humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty would be pleased to direct an inquiry to be made for the purpose of ascertaining whether the number of persons dissenting from the established churches of England, Ireland, and Scotland, was not greater than the number of those in communion with those churches, and, if so, whether the time was not arrived when the public property which had been devoted to the uses of those churches ought to be withdrawn, regard being had to existing interests, and whether the greater portion of it ought not to be devoted to the promotion of national education, or to any other useful purpose that parliament might direct.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, Feb. 8th.

Lord BROUGHAM moved the second reading of the Duke of Richmond's bill to arrest the *qui tam* actions, which have been instituted, by a stretch of the present laws, to recover penalties from persons who have made bets at horse races. On doing so, he stated that thirty writs had been issued, involving penalties to the amount of nearly £500,000: one peer had been sued for £68,000; another for £102,000; and a county member for £120,000. The Bishop of LONDON expressed some dislike to the bill, as extending to rich persons a relief from liabilities which would not have been accorded to poor persons. The Bishop of EXETER condemned the measure. It appeared to him that the law of the land had given a vested interest in these penalties to the common informer, and therefore that the legislature ought not to interfere on such an occasion. When he saw the enormous evils which were connected with horseracing, he should be very sorry to see the legislature throw its mantle over such practices. The bill was read a second time, and passed in committee.

Monday, Feb. 12th.

Lord RIPON, in the House of Lords, moved the thanks of their Lordships' House to Sir Charles Napier, and the army employed in the conquest of Scinde.

Lord AUCKLAND seconded the motion; and the Duke of Wellington declared, that after the fullest consideration of the events of the campaign, he had never known an instance in which a general officer had displayed in a higher degree than Sir C. Napier all the qualifications which were necessary for enabling him to conduct great operations. He praised in equally flattering terms his entire discretion and prudence in the formation of his plans, his activity

in preparation, and his zeal, gallantry, and science in action.

Lord CLARENCE, requesting information on the present state of Spain, entered into a consideration of the general policy of both England and France with respect to that country. He wished to know what was to be the character of our future policy towards Spain, and whether the French government had succeeded in procuring the exclusion of other candidates, and the selection of Count Trapani, the brother of the king of Naples, as the intended husband of Queen Isabella? Lord ABERDEEN exposed the absurdity of the opinion that the spirit of hostility to Espartero which, in the course of six weeks, had pervaded every village and every regiment in Spain was the creation of French intrigue, and attributed it rather to the jealous aversion the Spaniards had always displayed to foreign interference, excited by the prevalent, but erroneous, belief that the Regent was entirely under English influence. The "cordial understanding" between France and England had no especial reference to Spain; but arose from the belief that the general interests of the two countries were not antagonist but identical. Its object—and he knew of no other—was, as respected Spain, to maintain its complete independence, to check, as far as possible, every species of violence, and to extend its prosperity and happiness. The marriage of the Queen was exclusively a Spanish question, to be reserved entirely for the Spanish government and nation. He was a party to no exclusion of any prince or family; and, whatever might be his own wishes or those of others, Spain alone should decide upon a subject so entirely Spanish. Lord CLARENCE professed his complete satisfaction at the answers he had received, and congratulated himself upon having elicited a declaration of opinion in which he so cordially agreed.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met at Birmingham on Monday—the President in the chair.

Letters were read from Reading, Leeds, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Bridgewater, Bristol, Alnwick, Derby, Cranbrook, London, Bath, Coventry, and Cheltenham. The following is from Edinburgh:

"Lothian street, Edinburgh, Feb. 8, 1844.

"RESPECTED FRIEND.—The last time that I wrote you was previous to the conferences of 1842 and 1843, in reference to your abandoning Lovett's plan of its constitution, which I approved of. Your alteration of it, I was certain, would lead to unpleasant results, which nearly upset the whole movement. Since then, I have no doubt but that you acted right, for it was impossible to work in connexion with O'Connor and Co.; and you have had further proof of the same import, at the Crown and Anchor meeting. The effect of that meeting in this city has been, in reference to the chartists, in your favour; some of the men who were O'Connor's best friends, are now among his greatest enemies; and it has drawn together all those staunch friends of complete suffrage. But as you do not court popularity, I have no wish to administer to you what you do not like.

"The more immediate object of this letter is to point out to you the course I think you should pursue. I have been connected with the chartist movement since its commencement, and the reason of its early success was the hope of its immediate success; my heart recoils from those who blasted those fair hopes. Now you, in connexion with Mr Crawford, have promulgated a plan which will again inspire hope in the breasts of a long injured and often betrayed people; but to have effect sufficient for that end, you must centre your exertions alone for the suffrage. 'Redress of Grievances' is too vague to inspire entire confidence; and it is also useless to catch the support of those who are either opposed or lukewarm on that question. The plan which I would propose is, for Mr Crawford to announce that he is resolved to extort a pledge from the government, that it will agree to a select committee to inquire into the state of the representation, with a view to extending the franchise to every man of 21 years, or that he will (if that is denied) obstruct the granting of any money to its support. But before he takes his final stand, he should appeal to the country generally, for its sanction, in the form of petitions, signed by the people. Let the pledge be distinctly given, and the appeal as distinctly made. If the country says yes, then he has a warrant to proceed; if it is indifferent, in that case he has no right to take such a step.

"My reason for restricting the point aimed at, to the suffrage, is, first, the great body of the people care little for anything else—second, it is the most powerful weapon that can be brought to bear on the House of Commons. No person dare deny that it does not represent the people, and that it ought to be a fair and full representation of the will of the people, for Peel and Russell would object to the obstructive minority; but let them give the men, whom they compel to pay taxes, a vote in this distribution, and they will get their supplies. But if they will not, then, if the obstructive minority are empowered by the country, they have a right, and are bound to prevent them from getting into their possession the money they, in the process of law, have extracted from the people. Third, the movement is peaceful, constitutional, just, and commanded by a patriotic and religious duty. What, give men our money to oppress, plunder, and enslave us, and squander on war and bloodshed? No, no, if we can help it.

"Such are my reasons for restricting the question to the suffrage. And if you and the council, in connexion with Mr Crawford, give your pledge, and demand a distinct answer, in numerous signed petitions, by a certain time, you will get an enthusiastic support; and the days of tyranny, monopoly, exclusive privileges, whether civil or religious, are numbered; and he who stood in the breach, and grappled single-handed with the people's oppressors, will be handed down as the saviour and deliverer of his country.

"Our petition here is doing well; our principal obstacle is 'there is nae use in petitioning.'

"I am, respected sir, yours truly,
"A NON-ELECTOR."

The following are extracts from others :—

LEEDS.—I have got up three petitions for three different wards in the borough, which are now being signed, and shall be forwarded to London on Wednesday next.

COVENTRY.—The friends of complete suffrage here are desirous of getting up a public tea party, which we hope will take place soon. Mr Williams' speech in seconding Mr Crawford's amendment has given general satisfaction here. We have had several thousands of his speech printed.

DERBY.—Our memorial, requesting our members to support Mr Crawford, was sent off on the 3rd. It had 1300 signatures, 370 of whom were electors, including eight town councillors.

BRISTOL.—Our weekly meetings still continue to be well attended. The requisition to our members is going on well.

BATH.—From this city we learn that the Town Hall has been obtained for the purpose of holding a public meeting on the suffrage question, and which will be held on an early day. Mr Sturge is expected to be present.

NOTTINGHAM.—The vote of Mr Gisborne, in opposition to Mr Crawford's amendment, has given the greatest dissatisfaction to his constituents.

THE SUPPLY MOVEMENT.

Mr Sturge read the following letter, which he had just received from Mr Crawford :—

"London, Feb. 10th, 1844.

"RESPECTED FRIEND—I think it right to submit to you a few observations on the present position of the movement, which has been commenced in the House of Commons with a view to pressing forward the consideration of grievances on motions of supply. By a reference to the division lists, you will find that forty members voted in support of that principle of action, taking the two divisions conjointly. Out of these forty members, you will observe that three, who voted in favour of the first motion, voted against the second motion; but even if we are to suppose that these gentlemen are no longer to be included in our lists, still there remain thirty-seven members, and there are some absent members whose support might be expected.

"It should always be kept in mind, in this movement, that a minority cannot be justified in any course which would indicate a continued opposition to a majority, unless it is based on the position that the minority do truly represent the people, and that the majority do not—and this can only be evidenced by the constitutional expression of the people's voice in the form of petition, and by the communication of the sentiments of constituencies to their respective representatives; but in such communication, allow me to add, that it is not right to ask them to support the details of proceeding which any particular member might suggest or adopt; but the constituencies should insist on the principle, that the complaints of the people should be inquired into before the supplies be voted, and that each member should make such motions and take such steps as, in his judgment, would be most effective for the purpose.

"I had written so far before I was aware that notice had been given by the government to bring on the army and navy estimates in committee of supply on Friday next. This is, I believe, a rapidity most unusual, if not unprecedented—the estimates are not yet delivered, and cannot be in the hands of members for some days. It is obvious, that by this course any possible expression of public opinion on the subject of the movement now commenced, will be forestalled; but if it be supposed that the fixing of this early day was done with that object, it will be a proof of the importance of the movement, and a stimulus to greater exertion in carrying it forward. In order to meet this proceeding of the government, I have this day given notice that I shall, on Friday next, "move an amendment on the motion of supply, to the effect that the consideration of the estimates be postponed." This motion will of course be lost, but it will lay a stronger foundation for a contest on the estimates, if the members representing popular constituencies feel so disposed.

"In the mean time I shall, as an individual member, keep up the system of proceeding to such extent as prudence and utility shall seem to me to warrant; but I must remind you that there is an obstacle to a single member, or a few members, pushing a proceeding of this kind to any great extent, without a sufficient weight both of internal and external support, lest it might be made a plea by the majority to swamp those privileges of the Commons which are intended as the best securities of the rights of the people. At the same time, I am convinced that if a body of members, to the number which the late divisions show, were determined to act together, and were backed by a sufficient power of the public voice, no government could stand against them for any length of time, and refuse redress of grievances; and I am equally convinced there are no other means in prospect by which that redress can be obtained.

"Believe me, with the highest respect, your friend,

"W. SHARMAN CRAWFORD.

"To Joseph Sturge, &c., &c."

Mr STURGE then said—When William Sharman Crawford first published his plan of action, he assumed that the conviction was now "universally raised in the public mind that the House of Commons, as at present constituted, and acting on its present system of business, is incompetent to do any real service to the country;" and he argued, that it "could be effectually used by a minority, even a small minority, if that minority be true to their country and their principles, and be supported efficiently by the voice of the people." The plan has been tried—a minority, exceeding our most sanguine expectations, both in point of numbers and moral weight, has pronounced in its favour, and it remains

now for the country to render that minority efficient support. And while we offer to these independent members our warmest and most cordial thanks, I would respectfully submit that, from the very nature of the plan, much of its success will depend upon the constant and seasonable application of the principle within the House. It was essential, to give the principle a fair trial, that as strong an expression of public opinion should be called forth, as time and circumstances would admit of. Acting on this conviction, the Council of the Union sent a deputation to visit a number of the largest towns in England, and the result was—a unanimous and most cordial approbation of the principle, and, with but few trifling exceptions, of the plan in detail. On the thirty-first of last month about seventy friends of the movement held a friendly conference in London—unanimously approved of the plan of action proposed, and, on the 2d inst., after it had been successfully launched in the House, passed a resolution expressive of their thanks to those who had voted for the amendment, and an earnest hope that they would persevere in their constitutional course until the grievances of the people are investigated and redressed; "and they returned to their respective localities resolved to strengthen their hands, and encourage them by using every legitimate and constitutional effort which it is in their power to put forth."

Here, then, there was an expression of public opinion of the most encouraging kind; and if the principle be vigorously applied within the House now, there is every reason to believe, that ere long it will call forth repeated manifestations of the same feeling, until the views of the majority of the people become distinctly known. At the present moment the case stands thus: within the House forty members, representing at least 100,000 electors, have recognised the principle, that redress of grievances should precede the voting of supplies; without the House the principle has been unanimously opposed by upwards of 30 of the largest boroughs, including most of the principal towns, and representing, probably, 50,000 more, a number equal to that by which the majority of the present House of Commons has actually been returned. In those circumstances William Sharman Crawford and his friends have every encouragement to persevere. But, at the same time, let me not be misunderstood—the people *have only begun the good work*, they will now have to come boldly out, by petitions or memorials, and continue their efforts without intermission. They cannot take better ground than that laid down for them by Sir Robert Peel, on Tuesday evening, when he said:—"Whatever course the hon. gentleman might take hereafter, he had that confidence in his good sense, that unless he found himself supported either by a considerable number of members within doors, or a large party without, he would not feel himself justified in obstructing the ordinary course of legislation." This is candid and honest. I hope the people will take Sir Robert Peel at his word, and show by their petitions and memorials that they are resolved to restore to action the constitutional principle that redress of grievances should precede the voting of supplies (hear, hear).

Mr ALBRIGHT, to show the necessity and importance of petitioning, referred to the fact, that in the course of a discussion, which took place in the House of Commons on that subject the other night, Sir Robert Peel measured the importance attached to questions in that house by the number of petitions presented for or against them, and tacitly admitted that the Factories' Education bill was abandoned on no other ground but the great number of petitions presented against it. He hoped this would prove an encouragement to their friends to persevere with their petitions.

Mr J. C. PERRY then moved—

"1. That this council congratulate the friends of complete suffrage upon the remarkable success which has attended the introduction into parliament of the proposal for redressing the grievances of the people before voting the supplies, and they derive great encouragement from the fact that forty members have recorded their votes in favour of that proposal.

"2. That this council have read the letter of Mr Sharman Crawford to their President, dated the 10th instant, with great interest, and beg to assure that gentleman of their unabated confidence, and the deep gratitude they entertain for his faithful services in the cause of the people and advocacy of their claims; and they rejoice that an instrument for enforcing those claims is now in the hands of the patriotic members of parliament who really represent the people.

"3. That this council look forward with the deepest anxiety to the discussion about to take place on the army estimates, and, in anticipation of the amendment of which Mr Crawford has given notice being defeated, trust that the friends of the people in parliament will use every means which the forms of the House will permit to resist the grant of supplies, even for a limited period, until an assurance be obtained that the master grievance of non-representation shall be considered with a view to its complete redress."

Mr W. MORGAN seconded the motion, which was then put by the chair, and passed unanimously.

LEICESTER.—At the monthly meeting of the Leicester Complete Suffrage Association, on Tuesday evening, a letter was read from the borough members, Sir J. Easthope, and Mr Wynn Ellis, conveying their refusal to support Mr Sharman Crawford's plan. The following resolution, moved by the secretary, Mr A. Collier, and seconded by Mr W. Baines, was unanimously adopted: "That this association highly approve of the course adopted by Mr Crawford, in having moved and pressed to a division an amendment upon the address, uninfluenced by the rude assaults of pretended patriots and factious popularity-seekers without the house, or the specious sophistries of aristocratic liberals, so called, within it. That this association tenders its thanks to the twenty-nine members who supported Mr Crawford on Thursday evening, and that it hopes the same course will be pursued on every fitting occasion."

READING, FEB. 12.—The four lectures on civil and religious liberty, recently delivered in our County hall by Henry Vincent, appear to have left a good impression upon the Reading public; and a petition to parliament against voting the supplies till the grievances of the people are investigated and redressed, being agreed upon a few days since, has received the signatures of 1642 of our townsmen, of all political opinions. The petition was this evening forwarded to the patriotic member for Rochdale to present to the House of Commons.

BEDFORD.—On Monday and Tuesday evenings (the 5th and 6th), two highly important meetings were held in this town to hear addresses from Henry Vincent on subjects bearing upon the suffrage question. Notwithstanding the charge of admission, the large room was crowded by a most respectable audience, which included many of the leading whigs, and a number of ladies. The chair was taken, at the first meeting, by F. Green, Esq.; and, at the second, by C. Metcalf, Esq. Mr Vincent was received with great cordiality, and addressed the meetings at length on the state of the country, and on the advantages of education and moral power, as a means for procuring the people's rights. The addresses were received with much enthusiasm, and votes of thanks were unanimously passed. These meetings were significant signs of the times. Here is a town, hitherto steeped in the mire of party wickedness, sending forth hundreds of its people to welcome the truths of democracy, and to assert the necessity of promoting the social and intellectual advancement of the people. Mr Vincent explained the plan of Sharman Crawford, for retarding the supplies until redress of grievances is procured, and the meeting appeared delighted with the project.

FINSBURY.—On Friday night last (notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather), a large meeting was held in the British school room, Cowper street, City road, to hear a lecture from Mr Henry Vincent, on the constitutional history of the House of Commons. C. H. Elt occupied the chair. Mr Vincent, who was received with repeated cheers, entered into an important description of the rise of the democratic part of our government. The meeting expressed its delight by its warm applause and unflagging attention, which was continued for two hours and a half. At the conclusion, a vote of thanks was given, with three times three cheers. Mr Vincent, in returning thanks, enjoined the people to be charitable one towards another, and to believe that democracy could only triumph by a manly display of moral and intellectual energy. His indirect allusion to the indecent interruption at the Crown and Anchor was greatly cheered.

BOLTON.—The *Bolton Free Press* contains the reply of the two members of that borough to the memorial requesting them to support Mr Crawford in his plan of withholding the supplies. Dr Bowring says:—"The only means to give effect to such an object, within the House of Commons, is to create a strong opinion in its favour without. Such opinion may, and would, probably, supply a sufficient number of courageous men to give effect to it; and, when the appropriate time arrives, I hope I shall not be found wanting as an actor, or a sufferer, or both." Mr P. Ainsworth:—"I regret that I cannot, on principle, accede to your request, and give my support to this resolution. I consider that the servants of the Crown, in the various departments of the state, have as full a right to be paid for their services as the operatives of Bolton, who labour for their daily food, and to withhold the salaries of the one or the wages of the other would be equally unjust and dishonest."

MANCHESTER.—The requisition, emanating from the Complete Suffrage Union, to the members for Manchester, to move amendments on the motion of supply until the grievances of the people are considered and redressed, has been signed by a thousand electors, a portion of which has been transmitted to Mark Philips, Esq., M.P. Many of the wealthy and influential electors of this town, including more than a third of the town council, have signed the requisition; and we have no doubt, had the matter been made more public, that several thousand of the electors would have appended their names to it.—*Manchester Times*.

WORCESTER.—We stated last week that memorials to the members for this city, requesting them to support Mr Sharman Crawford in his plan for stopping the supplies until grievances are redressed, were in course of signature. We have now to state that those for the electors received 460 signatures, and those for the non-electors were signed by 1820 persons. They were taken to London by R. Hardy, Esq., president of the Worcester Complete Suffrage Association, who waited upon both the honourable gentlemen, but was unable to obtain an interview with either.—*Worcester Chronicle*.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Memorials having been addressed to Messrs Ord, Hinde, and Hutt, M.P.'s for Newcastle and Gateshead, by their constituents, replies have been received, of which the following are the substance. In reference to Mr Crawford's amendment, Mr Ord says:—"Although the first sentence of his amendment declared a readiness to vote such supplies as were necessary for the public service, yet the next sentence seemed to me to imply that a general inquiry into the state of the nation, and a remedy for its grievances, should precede such votes of necessary supplies—a proposition to which I could not agree, however proper and necessary I may think the inquiry, and however satisfied I may be as to several measures that would at least tend to mitigate the evils which are so generally felt and complained of." Mr Hutt objects to the principle of complete suffrage:—"I do not recognise, in any particular classes of our countrymen, an exclusive right to the suffrage; but I continue to think,

that so long as large masses of our population are devoid of all kind of intellectual and moral instruction, a law of general suffrage would be attended with so much danger to the best interests of all, that we should not be right in adopting it." Mr Hodgson Hinde says:—"I cannot, however, concur with you in attributing that distress to any want of sympathy between the legislature and the people. I firmly believe that the plan which you propose as a remedy would increase a hundredfold the sufferings and privations of the labouring classes." At their meeting last Thursday, the council of the Newcastle Complete Suffrage Association resolved:— "1. That this council have received a report of the proceedings in parliament of W. S. Crawford, Esq., and his noble and patriotic band of supporters, with the highest approbation and delight; and they pledge themselves to exert their utmost influence to induce the electors, and inhabitants of this locality generally, to give so just, constitutional, and necessary a policy their immediate and decided support. 2. That this resolution be communicated to the members who supported Mr Crawford's motion. 3. That a requisition be adopted to the Mayor, requesting him to call a town meeting, 'to consider the best means of supporting Mr Sharman Crawford.'

CUPAR.—On the evening of Thursday last the Rev. Mr Cairns gave the fifth lecture under the auspices of the Complete Suffrage Association, in the Free church, "On the importance of moral causes to all reforms." After the lecture a vote of thanks was proposed to the rev. gentleman for his able and eloquent address, which was cheerfully and unanimously responded to by the meeting. The church was well filled by a respectable audience, among whom we could distinguish a considerable sprinkling of the upper classes in the neighbourhood.

—Fife Herald.

HAWICK.—REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.—On Monday evening a public meeting of the inhabitants of Hawick was held in the town hall, for the purpose of aiding, by petition, Sharman Crawford, Esq., M.P., in his offer to move amendments, in committee of supply, until the grievances of the people are heard and redressed. The meeting was large, and appeared to approve highly of the object, but we regret to state was much disturbed towards the close by an altercation which took place, in which the O'Connor chartists bore a conspicuous part. The conductors of the meeting belonged entirely to the working classes, and we were glad to observe many of the chartist body who took an enlightened and commonsense view of the subject. The proceedings were briefly as follow:—Mr A. Law was elected chairman, and Mr A. Hogg laid before the meeting a detailed statement of the plan, and moved a resolution approving of it, which, being seconded by Mr Wm Scott, was unanimously passed. A memorial to the Hon. Francis Scott was proposed by Mr James Gray, seconded by Mr Francis Scott, and approved by the meeting. This memorial calls upon the member for Roxburghshire to support Mr Crawford—which, of course, he will not do. It is right, however, that he should know the spirit that is abroad. A petition to the House of Commons was adopted (after some dissension), and forwarded to Thomas Duncombe, Esq., for presentation.—*Edinburgh Chronicle.*

BRIDGWATER.—A petition, praying the House to investigate and redress the grievances of the people before granting the supplies, has been prepared by the Complete Suffrage Association of this town, and is now in course of signature.

T. S. DUNCOMBE, Esq., M.P., AND THE SOIREE AT THE CROWN AND ANCHOR.—At a special meeting of the Finsbury Complete Suffrage Association, Feb. 8th, it was resolved—"That this association views with astonishment and regret, the extraordinary conduct of T. S. Duncombe, Esq., at the Crown and Anchor, on Wednesday evening, 31st ult. They had expected that honourable member would have attended as a guest for the purpose of promoting the object for which the meeting was called; but, instead of this, he most unwarrantably and irregularly aided Feargus O'Connor in disturbing and ultimately breaking up that meeting." The following is Mr Duncombe's reply to this resolution:—

"The Albany, Feb. 12, 1844.

"GENTLEMEN—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and also of a resolution passed at a 'special meeting' of the Finsbury Complete Suffrage Association.

"If by the term 'special' is meant for the special purpose of arraigning my conduct at 'the Crown and Anchor,' I think it would have been more in accordance with the principles you profess had notice of your resolution preceded your denunciation. With regard to your 'astonishment and regret,' I beg to observe that they are phantoms of your own imaginations rather than consequences of my 'unwarrantable and irregular' conduct, to which you are pleased to ascribe them.

"I trust you will be as prompt in giving newspaper publicity to my reply as you have been in publishing your resolution, as that was the first channel through which it reached me.

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

"To Messrs Hook and Elt. THOS S. DUNCOMBE."

STOPPING SUPPLIES.—REMARKABLE PRECEDENT.—As far back as 1703, or 140 years since, the following speech was made on a motion of supply in the Scots' parliament, which commenced its sittings at Edinburgh, on the 6th of May of the above year. The speaker was the celebrated Andrew Fletcher, of Saltoun; and it may be well to state the circumstances under which it was made. Queen Anne was then sovereign, and was in the second year of her reign; but having no issue, and the line of succession not having been agreed to, the patriotic few in the Scots' parliament were anxious to counteract court influence by an act of limitations upon the successor to the Crown. The speech will explain the rest.

My Lord Chancellor, I am not surprised to find an act for a supply brought into this house at the beginning of a session. I know custom has, for a long time, made it common. But I think experience might teach us that such acts should be the last of every session, or lie upon the table till all other great affairs of the nation be finished, and then only granted. It is a strange proposition which is usually made in this house, that if we will give money to the Crown, then the Crown will give us good laws; as if we were to buy good laws of the Crown, and pay money to our princes, that they may do their duty and comply with their coronation oath. And yet this is not the worst; for we have often had promises of good laws, and when we have given the sums demanded, those promises have been broken, and the nation left to seek a remedy, which is not to be found unless we obtain the laws we want before we give a supply. And if this be a sufficient reason at all times to postpone a money act, can we be blamed for doing so at this time, when the duty we owe to our country indispensably obliges us to provide for the common safety in case of an event altogether out of our power, and which must necessarily dissolve the government, unless we continue and secure it by new laws—I mean the death of her Majesty, which God in his mercy long avert. I move, therefore, that the House would take into consideration what acts are necessary to secure our religion, liberty, and trade, in case of the said event, before any act of supply, or other business whatever, be brought into deliberation.

General News.

FOREIGN.

SPAIN.

This unhappy country has, through the despotism of its rulers, become once more the scene of insurrection. It began at Alicante, on the 27th January, with a public riot, marked by cries of "Down with tyranny!" "Live the constitutional Queen!" Don Pantaleon Bonet, a commandant of carabiniers, backed by several soldiers, placed himself at the head of the movement. The local authorities were cast into prison; a junta was formed, with Bonet for president, and Manuel Cabrera for vice-president; and revolution was proclaimed. The French telegraph reports movements at Alcoy, Elche, Cocentaina, and Muro, to have failed.

The intelligence reached Madrid on the 31st, when ministers are said to have intercepted letters that compromised the leaders of the progresista party: the house of Joaquim Lopez was first searched; Cortina and others were lodged in prison; Lopez and Miguel Ors could not be found. Troops were detached from Madrid; but as they were leaving the town on the night of the 1st instant, the officer in command, General Cordova, was arrested! The conduct of the government appears to be furious and rash. The most deadly measures had been threatened, in the Queen's name, against the revolt: the peaceful St Sebastian was provoked by the gratuitous disarming of its national guard; Navarre was menaced with an invasion of 6,000 men, to compel the levy of a contingent towards the government army; the liberty of the press was annulled, by prohibition to report the proceedings of the revolutionists; and Narvaez had drawn upon himself the rage of the grandees, by appointing himself lord of the bedchamber to the Queen, with privileges of constant attendance heretofore reserved for that noble body. So stood matters at Madrid on the 2nd instant.

A despatch has been issued by Narvaez, in the name of her Majesty, to Roncali, ordering him to shoot thirty insurgents taken in the attempt to possess themselves of Alcoy, a small town near Alicante; "Her Majesty" justly anticipating, at the same time, that the rebels, who have made prisoners of numbers of the loyal civil and military authorities in Alicante, will, of course, shoot them in retaliation; an unlucky fate, adds her Majesty, "to which they will know how to resign themselves when a benefit results thereby to the cause of the public." This order, says the *Times*' correspondent, is censured both by friends and foes, and "has probably given the death-blow to the cabinet."

General Roncali, at the head of ten thousand men, had proceeded against the insurgents; but before he had marched a great way from Valencia, was recalled to that city in consequence of intelligence of an intended rising in that city. On his return he arrested and shot all the leaders he could lay hold of; the rest fled, and are established in junta in the mountains.

On the 2nd inst, Cartagena, a town of much importance on the coast, followed the example of Alicante. The insurgents were joined by the troops, and between a thousand and twelve hundred Catalonian prisoners, who had been transported thither for safe keeping by General Prim, had joined in the movement; and they arrested the Governor and several chiefs. An attempt was made by the people of Murcia to join in the movement, but the authorities received notice in time to prevent it. Attempts at insurrection had also failed at Alcoy, Elche, Cocentaina, and Muro. Reports of similar risings at Jarida, Santander, and Bilbao, circulated at Madrid, but were considered to require confirmation. Movements were confidently said to have taken place in Seville and other parts of Andalusia.

The insurrection was, however, considered to be premature, although of a very serious nature; and, despite the energy displayed by the Bravo government in attempting to repress it, such are the headlong measures that they have taken that it is probable the whole country will be driven to take part with the insurgents.

AMERICA.

The packet-ship Queen of the West has brought advice from New York to the 24th January. Mr Tyler was at issue with the senate, who were considering, and rejecting, his recent appointments to

the ministry. The Oregon question and tariff had been talked of in Congress—the tariff in such a way as to make it unlikely that any thing would be done in the matter this session.

Mr Clay's prospects for the presidency were improving. Mr Rives, of Virginia, had written a long letter against him, and in favour of Clay. A declaration is daily expected from Mr Calhoun himself. General Cass, too, has taken the field; and, in short, the democrats are so split and divided into personal factions, that there seems a chance of Clay's success.

Much time has been occupied in Congress in discussing the policy of a rule of the House which prohibits the reception of abolition petitions. The question whether it shall or shall not be abolished is yet pending, and was likely to be for several days. From the turn the debate has taken, and judging from the opinions expressed by some southern gentlemen, the chances are that it will be abolished.

The question of the annexation of Texas to the United States has been brought before the Texian Congress. The *Houston Telegraph* states, that a joint resolution in favour of annexation was introduced in the House of Representatives on Monday, Dec. 21, and received the unanimous approbation of that body. On the 21st of December, also, both houses of Congress passed resolutions calling on the President for all the correspondence in relation to the negotiations of Texas with England, France, and the United States, regarding her independence of Mexico. The President positively refused to comply, and branded the movers of the resolution with very severe reproaches. Great excitement was created in consequence.

CHINA.

The news from China is of little interest. Little had occurred worthy of notice subsequent to the fires which consumed the factories on the 25th of October, by which the Danish, Spanish, and a part of the French factories, were destroyed. The British consulate was also consumed. The markets at Canton had become rather more favourable. A proclamation had been issued by the Imperial Commissioner, declaring that the warehouses belonging to the new merchants (outside men) are to stand on an equal footing with the old (Hong) merchants, and that from henceforth there shall be no difference between the two warehouses. The supplementary treaty, of which a copy had been sent to Pekin, was forwarded also to Bombay, and was to come by the mail on to England.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A letter from Presburg, of January 27, in the *Augsburg Gazette*, states that the question of trial by jury had been adopted in the Second Chamber of the States of Hungary by a majority of seven; and it was also resolved, that persons not of noble birth should be allowed to sit upon the juries.

According to a letter from Naples of the 20th ult., the borders of the crater of Mount Etna have become considerably extended. Of the five new craters that had been formed, two were still smoking, and small flames were to be seen.

GEORGE THOMPSON.—We observe from the *Bombay Times* that Mr Thompson sailed for England, from Bengal, in the ship Bentinck, on the 20th of November. His arrival here may therefore be daily expected.

CIRCASSIA.—A letter from St Petersburg, 27th ult., in the *Augsburg Gazette*, confirms the intelligence of a victory being gained by the Russian troops, under General Freytag, in the Caucasus, and states that 6,000 Circassians were either killed or taken prisoners. The same communication announces that the Emperor has lately issued a new order relative to the five Roman catholic houses of education for young men intended for the priesthood, whereby forty-nine pupils are to be educated at the expense of the state.

Boghos Bey, minister of foreign affairs and commerce to Mehemet Ali, viceroy of Egypt, died on the 10th of January.

EFFECTS OF SLAVERY.—A New York paper of the 10th ult. announces, in the following, cool, dry, matter-of-fact style, the intended execution of one human being for endeavouring to assist another in obtaining those rights which, according to the American declaration of independence, belong to all men:—"Capital Punishment in South Carolina.—Judge O'Neill sentenced a young man, named John L. Brown, on the 21st ultimo, at Columbus, to be hung on the 20th of April next, under a conviction of aiding a slave to run away!"

DREADFUL SHIPWRECK IN THE UNITED STATES.—The *Pennsylvania Inquirer* of the 15th ult. contains a lamentable account of the wreck of the Shepherdess steamer, with great loss of life. The history of the matter, it states, is as follows:

On the 4th, the Shepherdess, from Cincinnati to this port, at 11 o'clock at night, when within three miles of the city, struck a snag, just above the mouth of Cahokia creek. The concussion was very severe, and must have torn out several of her planks. At the moment of striking, most of the passengers in the gentleman's cabin had retired to their berths. The ladies were generally undressed for the night. Upon deck, so far as we could ascertain from the officers and passengers, there were some sixty or seventy passengers, young and old. Four or five men were sitting up in the gentleman's cabin, at the stove. In a minute or two the water rose to the lower deck, where most of the passengers in that part of the boat were asleep. One of the pilots went into the hold, but he had scarcely entered before the rush of the water drove him out. The captain, who was on duty, ran to the ladies' cabin, and assured them there was no danger, and returned to the forecastle, which was the last satisfactory account we could get of him. About this time, screams and shrieks were heard from the deck

below, and one or two ladies, who rushed to the stern of the boat, say that they saw a number of persons in the water. Certain it is, the water rushed in with tremendous rapidity, and in about three minutes was up to the floor of the upper cabin. A portion of those on the deck were saved by getting into the yawl, which was cut loose and rowed to shore with a broom. The water rose so rapidly that it soon became necessary for all to seek safety upon the hurricane deck. Much difficulty was experienced in doing so, for the bow was sunk so deep that the only access was by the stern. So far as we could learn, we believe all the inmates of the cabin reached the hurricane roof. After the boat struck the snag, it drifted down the stream, and a few hundred yards below struck another snag, which was far out of the water. This threw the boat nearly on her beam-ends on the larboard side. Drifting from the snag, she again lurched to the starboard, and at each lurch several persons were washed off. Some of them reached the shore, but many were drowned. A short distance below, just above the first shot tower, the hull struck a bluff bank, which again encircled her nearly on her beam's end. Here the hull and cabin parted. The hull sank and lodged on a bar above Carondelet, and the cabin floated down to the point of the bar below that place, where it lodged and remains. The Henry Bry was lying at the shot tower above Carondelet, when the cabin passed. The cries of the passengers aroused the captain, and he and his crew rendered efficient service in rescuing the passengers in their yawl. We are told that the captain of the Bry worked until he was entirely covered with ice. About three o'clock the Icelander, one of our ferry-boats, came along, and went to the rescue, and took off all who remained on the wreck.

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS.—A correspondent of the *Times* supplies the following distressing intelligence, respecting the cruel treatment of the Jews of Lithuania by the autocrat of Russia:

"An imperial ukase has been received in Lithuania, directing the authorities of towns and other localities inhabited by Jews to transport those unhappy persons, amounting to 36,000 families, to a distance of twelve leagues from their several actual places of residence. This cruel ukase was further to receive its execution before the 18th inst.; so that, at a moderate estimate, 150,000 persons of both sexes, and of all ages and conditions, are at this moment, in the midst of all the rigours of a Lithuanian winter, expelled their houses, and forced to seek a resting place in strange countries, and not merely among strangers, but among people predisposed to view them as outcasts, and objects for extortion, persecution, and violence.

"Sacrificing a great principle in order to protect a suffering race, Europe interfered between the Greeks and their butchers. Here is a case for intervention not less urgent. Will the Christian powers of Europe remain silent and inactive in the presence of such horrors?"

Captain Grover has received a letter from the Rev. Dr Wolff, stating, on the authority of the individuals personally cognisant of the fact, that Captain Connolly and Colonel Stoddart are both alive. They teach the soldiers of Bokhara the European exercise.

HEALTH OF THE KING OF SWEDEN.—This sovereign has been dangerously ill, near the point of death. On the 28th ult. he was in a state of delirium. A letter from Stockholm, dated Jan. 30, p.m. announces, however, a favourable change. So satisfactory a change in the state of the king's health has taken place since yesterday, that nobody has the least doubt that he is now quite out of danger. Though the fever has not quite left him, his Majesty's head is entirely free, and he has no particular pain.

Accounts from the Havanna state that an insurrection of slaves had taken place there, and that no less than 500 of the poor creatures were killed on the spot! The coolness, and business-like announcement of this event in the American journals, demonstrates the effect which the close and habitual contemplation of slavery has in blunting the better feelings of humanity.

A cabinet council was held at one o'clock, on Monday, at the Foreign Office.

We have reason to know that the negotiations for marrying the Prince Trapani of Naples to the young Queen of Spain are definitely broken off. Two negotiations have been commenced—the one between the Carlist party, Don Carlos having abandoned a part of his pretensions, for a marriage between the Queen and the Prince of Asturias; and the other having for object the nuptials of the Duke of Cadiz with his royal cousin. Queen Christina has expressed herself favourable to the latter project, since the death of her sister.—*Morning Herald*.

The Earl of Carlisle (Lord Morpeth's father) has been for the last week alarmingly ill, but was according to the latest accounts somewhat better, although but slender hopes are entertained of his eventual recovery. The arrangement for Lord Morpeth to enter parliament for the borough of Morpeth has, therefore, for the present been suspended, as it is possible the noble lord may be called to the upper house.

The Marquis of Westminster is introducing the allotment system on his estate amongst the cottage tenantry. The allotments consist of a quarter of an acre each.

PARDON OF A REFORM BILL RIOTER.—Her Majesty's government has issued a free pardon to Valentine Marshall, one of the rioters who was transported for life by Mr Justice Gaslee, at the special reform riot commission at Nottingham, in 1831, for setting fire to Colwick-hall, the seat of Mr John Musters, Nottinghamshire, and from the effects of which Mrs Musters, the famous "Mary" of Lord Byron, met with her death in the shrubbery.

The *Times*, with an objecting grumble, announces that the government have determined to stamp sheets and half-sheets of letter paper, so that when folded up in the shape of a letter or note, the stamp will appear on that part usually devoted to the address. The proposal that government should supply the paper at the price of the stamp, was rejected.

PENNY POSTAGE.—PROPOSED TRIBUTE TO ROWLAND HILL, Esq.—An advertisement appears in the Bristol papers announcing that a number of gentlemen of the highest respectability have consented to act as local treasurers for Bristol, and that boxes to receive subscriptions for the tribute will be placed in various parts of that city. A good example to other towns.

On and after the 15th instant the postage on letters posted in the United Kingdom, and addressed to India, marked to be forwarded "via Southampton," may be paid in advance or not, at the option of the sender.

ARTHUR O'NEILL.—The memorial, containing the signatures of the Mayor and twenty-six town councillors, eight ministers of the gospel, and fourteen thousand inhabitants of Birmingham, praying for the liberation of Arthur O'Neill, was entrusted to Sir James Graham by Joshua Scholefield, Esq., a few days since, for presentation to the Queen. The following answer has been received:—

"Whitehall, Feb. 7, 1844.

"SIR.—The Home Secretary, Sir James Graham, having carefully considered your application in behalf of Arthur O'Neill, I am directed to express to you his regret that there is no sufficient ground to justify him, consistently with his public duty, in advising her Majesty to comply with the prayer thereof. I am, sir,

"Your most obedient and humble servant,
J. Scholefield, Esq., M.P. S. M. PHILLIPS."

THE ATLAS PRIZE ESSAYS.—The arbiters have decided that Mr Samuel Laing, late Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, the writer of the essay bearing the initials S. L., is entitled to the first premium of £100; that the writer of the essay bearing the initials of B. C. E., from whom at present they had not received a communication, is entitled to the second premium of £50; and that Mr Edward Baines, editor of the *Leeds Mercury*, the writer of the essay bearing the initials L. T. S. R. P., is entitled to the third premium of £25. The subject of the Essay was "On the causes of, and remedies for, the present distress of the country."

PUBLIC INCOME.—A return has just been laid before parliament, on the motion of Mr Baring, of the net public income of the United Kingdom, with an account of the balances of money remaining in the Exchequer on the 5th day of January, 1843 and 1844. The total amount of revenue for the year ending January 5, 1844, derived from direct and indirect taxes, was £51,069,978s.; and from other receipts, £1,512,839, making altogether, £52,582,817 10s. 2d. Of the latter sum the money received from China forms the principal item, and amounts to £1,315,209 1s. 6d. The total charge of the funded debt is £28,581,076 4s. 2d.; for the army £5,997,156; the navy, £6,606,056; and the ordnance, £1,910,704. The balance in the Exchequer on the 6th day of January, 1843, was £1,390,059, and (thanks to the income tax) at the same period in 1844, it amounted to £4,716,019 1s. 4d.

COMMERCIAL TREATIES AND THEIR EFFECTS.—During the last six years, while circumstances have permitted a free import of corn from the continent, our exports to those countries have increased five millions, in spite of increasing duties and hostile tariffs; while during the same period from 1836 to 1842, our exports to Brazil have fallen from £3,630,000 to £1,750,000, though with that country we have a most favourable treaty, which freely admits our goods at a low rate of duty, but then we refuse to admit their produce for consumption here. Negotiations and treaties will never make a trade—free imports will never fail to induce large exports.—*Economist*.

QUARTERLY TABLE OF MORTALITY.—This table, comprising 114 districts of England (including the principal towns), shows the number of deaths registered in the five years, the average number of deaths in the six autumns (1837-42), and the number of deaths in the autumn quarter of 1843, ending Dec. 31.

The 114 districts are subdivided into 571 registrars' districts. 33 districts are in the metropolis, and 81 comprise, with some agricultural parishes, the principal towns and cities of England. In 1841 the population of these districts was 6,534,535—nearly 4-10ths of the whole population. The number of deaths from all causes registered in the 13 weeks ending Dec. 30, 1843, is as follows:—Epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases, 2,909 died; diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves and senses, 2,047; of the lungs, and of the other organs of respiration, 4,396; of the heart and blood-vessels, 320; of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion, 981; of the kidneys, 89; childbed, disease of the uterus, &c. 141; rheumatism and affections of the joints and bones, 69; of the skin, &c., 26; dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain seat, 1,387; old age and natural decay, 967; deaths by violence, privation, or intemperance, 296: causes not specified, 110—making, in the aggregate, 13,738, or 1,923 more than 11,815, the average of five previous autumns. Taking into consideration the increase of population, the excess of deaths in the last quarter is 1,368. Fewer violent or sudden deaths were registered than usual. Scarletina, measles, and typhus are said to be the prevalent diseases in the other parts of the kingdom. In the provincial districts the aggregate number of deaths is considerably below the average.

COERCION FOR IRELAND.—The London correspondent of the *Scotsman* informs us, "If the pending prosecution of the Irish repealers is unsuccessful, ministers have resolved to bring in a Coercion bill. I am well informed that such is the alternative resolved upon by the cabinet; and some of their confidential friends do not hesitate to whisper that the government indictments were preferred against the Irish repealers, not so much with the hope of a conviction as that an acquittal might be a justification to the tories in bringing in a legislative measure to put down the repeal agitation."

CLAIMS OF MESMERISM TO STUDY.—The following is a copy of an interesting letter on the subject from Mr T. E. Webb, M.R.C.S.L., of Bungay, which appeared in the *Medical Times* of the 20th ult.:—

"SIR.—Knowing there are many persons of candour and intelligence, who are sceptical as to the existence of that peculiar agent or influence now commonly called mesmerism, and having seen the subject unworthily treated by many who wish to be considered rational beings, but are evidently more disposed to enjoy a burlesque representation than to institute an honest search for truth, I am induced to make known the following cases, that the former class may be made acquainted with some indubitable facts connected with the subject, and the latter may see how pointless are expressions of ridicule and contempt, when employed in such a controversy.

"I have the pleasure of being acquainted with Mr C. Childs, who resides in this place, and who has for several years privately practised the science, as a subject of legitimate investigation, and a means of effecting much good. By him I have been invited during the past year to witness many facts undoubtedly mysterious, but yet so palpable, so consistent, and so faithful, that they have produced in my mind entire conviction of the existence of some element or attribute of our common nature, which, like the electric and galvanic fluids, is discoverable only by its effects, or during its action.

"My present object is to communicate only two cases in which I was myself concerned, and which, had any doubt lingered in my mind, would have entirely dispelled it:—Two young women, mesmeric patients of my friend Mr Childs, who had suffered from tooth-ache for some time past, consented to have their teeth extracted while in mesmeric somnolency, but were not apprised of the time at which this was to be done. That they might have no reason to suspect what was about to take place, I was not sent for until Mr Childs had put them into the mesmeric condition, when I went and extracted in the afternoon, for one a very troublesome stump, and in the evening of the same day, for the other, a double tooth in the upper jaw. I am morally certain that no means were employed to produce this state of unconsciousness, except the mesmeric—in fact, there are no others capable of inducing such a condition as that in which these young women were placed, and from which they could be released at the will of another. Care was taken to remove from sight whatever might afford intimation of the teeth having been extracted; after a short time they were awakened, and they were both wholly unconscious of all that had taken place. I do not testify, as I might, to their respectability of character, because their perfectly unaffected demeanour and natural surprise afforded, to my own judgment, the best evidence that they had been as entirely ignorant both of the operation itself and of the time at which it was effected, as they were of the moment of their birth.

"Nor was this all; for neither at the time when they were awakened, nor on the following day, did they experience either pain in the jaw or tenderness in the gum.

"I have given a simple statement of the truth; and, whatever may be said by some, or thought by others, these are stubborn, indisputable facts, and are not to be disposed of as the fancies of a heated imagination. The proofs which I have witnessed of the existence of this subtle agent are so numerous and so complete, that the difficulty, in my judgment, does not lie in believing, but in doubting; and were it even possible for one person honestly to delude himself in such a case, it is utterly improbable that another, and another, would follow in his train. To refuse the testimony of my own senses here is to assume that these, which for years have furnished the data for thought and action, suddenly fail, and delude my understanding, when directed to the subject of mesmerism.

"I have not come forward to support the theory of any man. I desire only, as an unprejudiced observer, to record facts which I have myself tested; and I do so with an earnest hope that this subject, so interesting in itself, and capable of exercising so beneficial an influence, may, by a fair and philosophical investigation, be placed in the rank of those sciences which are cherished as the springs of blessing to mankind. I am, sir, yours respectfully,

"Bungay, Jan. 12, 1844. T. E. WEBB, M.R.C.S.L."

THE "LOCK-UPS" OF ENGLAND.—The police lock-ups at Halifax consist of three cells, all 6 feet 11 inches high;—No. 1. 4 feet 10 inches, by 8 feet 11 inches. No. 2. 5 feet, by 8 feet 11 inches. No. 3. 5 feet 2 inches, by 8 feet 11 inches. In these three cells—which are defective, according to Captain Williams, in size, light, ventilation, and the most common requisites—twenty-four prisoners were confined for three days during the Chartist riots in mid-summer, 1842. Eight persons, therefore, must have been crammed into each of these narrow cells for two-and-seventy hours—not, as in the Scotch case, in the cold month of October, but under the blazing sun of the month of June. No alteration had been made in these lock-ups when Captain Williams visited them on the 1st of December, 1843. A vagrant was then lying there who had died of typhus on the morning of his visit. These lock-ups have been specially reported to the Secretary of State, and, for the honour of Yorkshire, are, we trust, now destroyed or abandoned for ever. At the lock-ups at Sheffield, where prisoners are generally detained four days, and sometimes ten, the bedding—a litter of straw, changed once a month, with a rug—is described as most uncleanly and inadequate. Pigs are kept close to them by the gaoler, as if it were intended to render them as offensive as possible to men who either have undergone, or may shortly have to undergo, the ordeal of a public trial.—*Times*.

THE FIVE METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS.—A prospectus has been issued of a plan for joining the five metropolitan railways in such a way as that the transit from the one to the other will be effectually secured, and thus enable travelers by any one of them to reach the other with perfect facility, and without the inconveniences now experienced in the changes from place to place.

THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.—The large triangular block of buildings facing Cornhill and Threadneedle street is at length announced to be sold by auction next week.

Postscript.

Wednesday, February 14th, 1844.

BIRMINGHAM, FEB. 13.—On Monday evening a meeting of the central committee for the redress of grievances was held at the Office, 37, Waterloo street. The town meeting, lately held here, having delegated to this committee a power to watch the supply movement in parliament, and petition in favour of it, the first business done was to pass a vote of thanks to Mr Scholefield for supporting Mr Crawford's amendment on the 6th. The policy of Mr Muntz, being alike unstable and inconsistent, was not deemed worthy of special notice. The success of Mr Crawford's amendment was matter of sincere congratulation. The committee felt indignant at the hasty manner in which the army estimates have been brought forward, and expressed their deep regret that the time was too limited for getting up an effective public demonstration on the subject. This, however, was the less regretted, when it was considered that Birmingham, but six weeks ago, gave an unequivocal expression of opinion in favour of the supply movement, the moral influence of which is yet telling throughout the country. A sub-committee, however, was appointed to make preparations for holding another meeting should any emergency occur to create the necessity for taking such a step. The said committee was also requested to petition parliament to postpone the army estimates until the national grievances already complained of be inquired into and redressed. The petition is to be entrusted to the members for Birmingham, an explanation, in the first place, being asked as to the non-presentation of the petition previously entrusted to their care. The deputation, which waited on Mr Muntz in London, stated that he had promised to see Mr Scholefield and present that petition, but, as yet, the committee had heard nothing of it.

FOREIGN NEWS.—The foreign contents of the journals before us refer to the illness of the King of Sweden, which had taken a favourable turn, and to the situation of Spain. From all that appears in the Paris papers and our Paris letters on the latter subject, it seems unquestionable that the government of Narvaez is not merely in danger, but on the eve of its dissolution. Our Paris correspondence states, that "the French government was in the utmost alarm on this subject. Queen Christina, by the advice of King Louis Philippe, has for the present renounced all idea of proceeding to Spain." The flame of insurrection was spreading in all directions. Pontevedra (in Galicia), and Mercia (the capital of the province of that name), were known to have "pronounced." Government had issued orders to disarm the national guards throughout Spain. They had already been carried into effect in Burgos, Valencia, Valladolid, and Ocana.—*Times*.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly meeting took place at the Conciliation hall, on Monday, John Neil, Esq., in the chair. Mr O'Connell's reception was of the most enthusiastic character. He said "They were all aware that Lord John Russell had given notice of a motion on the affairs of Ireland, which would come on in the House of Commons tomorrow (Tuesday). He (Mr O'Connell) did not think much of any battle in London on the subject of Ireland. The Whigs, to be sure, were better than the Tories, but neither came up to his mark. He would not himself go over to Parliament, but he would, at the same time, afford as much assistance as possible to Lord John Russell on the subject of his motion. They should, therefore, send over to London, for the purpose of giving him information, chiefly in reference to the constitution of the jury, two of the gentlemen (Sir Coleman O'Loughlin and Mr O'Hea) which had been engaged as counsel by them on the trial which terminated that morning. Mr Smith O'Brien moved that Mr O'Connell's address to the jury should be printed by the association, and commented, at some length, on the conduct of the trials. He hoped that before that day week a committee would be appointed to prepare an address on these subjects to Parliament, and that the whole subject would be brought before Parliament. Mr Maher, the new M.P. for North Tipperary, seconded the resolution, and handed in £10 subscription to the association. Mr O'Connell read a letter from Dr Gray, proprietor of the *Freeman's Journal*, tendering his resignation as a member of the association, on the ground that the association was liable to be prosecuted for publications in his paper if he continued a member. Mr Smith O'Brien would not consent to receive his resignation unless under a protest. The amount of the rent was announced to be £643 0s. 3d.: after which the meeting adjourned until Monday next.

Mr O'Connell has issued another address to the Irish people earnestly entreating them to be peaceful. It concludes—"Keep the peace for six months, or at the utmost twelve months longer, and you shall have the parliament in College Green again."

METROPOLITAN ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The fifth monthly meeting of the members of this association was held yesterday evening, at the King's Head tavern, Poultry.—Mr Edward Miall in the chair. The attendance was numerous, and the proceedings of a very interesting character. The chairman opened with short address, in the course of which he reviewed the present aspect of the anti-state-church cause, the healthy state of feeling that was springing up among dissenters, and the formidable nature of the conflict that was now commencing between the friends of free Christianity and the upholders of priesthood. They must anticipate sacrifices of no trifling character, in carrying on the unequal warfare—loss of ease, reputation, and perhaps of liberty itself. He had watched with great interest the formation and progress of this association, from the

fact of its having been the first society of the kind which had openly professed the separation of church and state, as its great fundamental object. He trusted that it would be found a valuable coadjutor in promoting the success of the proposed convention, and in assisting to carry into effect such measures for future action as might then be determined on. The secretary, Mr Simmons, reported a considerable increase in the number of members, and that a public meeting had been for the present postponed, in consequence of the great difficulty in procuring a suitable place for that purpose. Upwards of 5,000 handbills, referring to the association, had been circulated during the past month. A letter was read from J. S. Trelawney, Esq., M.P., acknowledging the receipt of the rules and address of the association, and his cordial concurrence with its object, "the separation of church and state." A resolution, condemning the conduct of government in striking off from the special jury in the Irish state trials, every Roman catholic, as a violation of the principle of religious freedom, was unanimously adopted. One of the grounds for adopting this protest was, that it was not altogether improbable that the dissenters of England might soon be placed in like circumstances to the Roman catholics of Ireland, since it is well known that government is by no means inattentive to the movement in organisation among dissenters for the overthrow of the state church. The subject for the evening's discussion, "Is it the duty of dissenters to interfere in political matters?" was then introduced by Mr Allwin, and gave rise to an interesting debate, although but little difference of opinion appeared to exist among the members present, all taking the affirmative side. The subject, after a few lucid and pointed remarks from the Chairman, was finally adjourned to the next meeting. As the object of this Association is to awaken the public mind in the metropolis on the important subject of the separation of church and state, and to organise the friends of that cause, it is hoped that they will be universally supported by all who are favourable to its object; since it is only by judicious agitation that the question can be finally carried.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DEBATES ON IRELAND.

Last night both houses of parliament were, for the first time this session, occupied with the subject of Ireland; and if their merit consisted in the quantity that was said, there would be no deficiency, since the report occupies no less than twenty-seven columns of the *Times*.

In the House of Commons Lord JOHN RUSSELL led the way by moving for a committee of the whole House, to take the subject of Ireland into consideration, and commencing an attack upon the policy of government. He reviewed the conduct of this country towards Ireland since the passing of the act of Union, premising that if the engagements made with her at the time of that measure had not been fulfilled, that was a sufficient reason why the House should go into this committee. He adverted, at great length, to Lord Stanley's bill, and the manner in which the Emancipation act had been carried. The offence charged against the Dublin traversers, of exciting ill-will among one people against the other, had been committed by eminent men in the present ministry with only a transposition of the words: they had endeavoured to excite ill-will, not indeed among the Irish against England, but among the English against Ireland. Was there a prosecution against the minister who had called the Irish aliens? Why, no; the words were spoken in parliament. But was he excluded from the favours of the Crown? No; he stood in the highest station, at the head of the law and of the magistracy. The noble lord then reviewed the proceedings in Ireland during the last eight months, attacking the government for their conduct all through, but expressing his approval of the prohibition of public meetings dangerous from their numbers. Referring to the state trials, he said, that if the acts so done were individually legal, they could not become illegal by repetition; if they were individually illegal, why were they left for nine months unchecked? These were grave questions, upon which the House was entitled to examine into the conduct of the government. The indictments were for conspiracy, in a modern and strained sense of the word. It was a new and dangerous sort of law, not founded on statute, but consisting very much of what Bentham had called judge-made law. According to that law, what was to prevent the government, if a dangerous speech were made at an Anti-corn-law League meeting, from including in their indictment Lord Westminster and Mr Jones Loyd, because those gentlemen had subscribed to that League? Of the 48 names chosen, only 10 were names of Roman catholics; and those 10, and 2 of protestants, were struck out by the Solicitor-general—a fact which of itself would deprive this proceeding of the effect of a genuine trial. The Irish people were sure to consider such a jury as a packed one. What advantage would the government reap from the conviction they had gained? He doubted whether imprisonment and suffering would not rather increase than abate the popularity of Mr O'Connell. Let the House, then consider whether there might not be other means than punishment more available for the real interests of England as well as of Ireland. He then proceeded to urge his remedies:

What he should propose, if the House went into committee, would be, firstly, to get rid of all sectarian policy; secondly, to give a fair and equal franchise, corporate as well as parliamentary; next, to abolish the system of civil exclusion. Then, as to the question of the ecclesiastical establishment. It had been urged, as a main objection against the voluntary system, that the clergy maintained by it were too apt to make themselves, and even their doctrine, subservient to the prejudices of

those who paid for that maintenance. Now, this objection existed in Ireland with respect to the spiritual guides of 6,000,000 of people; and those guides were thus forced into politics and agitation. With this inherent evil of the voluntary system was united in Ireland that opposite evil also, which is more or less incident to every establishment—the jealousy and odium which it generates among the dissenters from it. Thus your present state combined the disadvantages of both systems. His wish was, to see the ecclesiastical endowments applied to the religious instruction of all classes; but this would not be feasible as yet: for in the existing state of feeling, the priesthood would not accept a public provision; perhaps the utmost that could at present be done would be to make a liberal allotment for the education of the Irish clergy. The grant to their college, whether at Maynooth or elsewhere, should be the double of its present amount. The prohibition upon the Roman catholic bishops against taking the titles of their sees should be abolished; and so should every other badge of degradation to the Roman catholic clergy. But perhaps the most difficult of all these subjects was that of the disorders arising from the tenure of land. Mr O'Connell had said, that the solution of this difficulty is full of danger; but there seemed, at all events, to be no necessity for the collection of further evidence by a commission. He should wish to see an increase rather than a diminution in the number of stipendiary magistrates; but he could not venture to say that he knew of any complete remedy for such an evil as that which was connected with the existing tenure.

Mr. WYSE in a temperate speech, seconded the motion.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM agreed in the opinion that violence was not the policy for governing Ireland. Accordingly, he was not rising to defend a coercion bill; but to support a reference made, and he was glad to say made successfully to the constitutional resource of a trial by jury. He would distribute what he had to say into two main divisions; the first comprehending the recent measures of the government, and the second the policy which that government might deem requisite for the future. [The latter portion of his intention the Home Secretary, however, unaccountably forgot to fulfil.] He then proceeded to the state trials. As to the omission in the Recorder's office, that was an accident for which the government were not responsible. With respect to the strike of the Roman catholics from the jury, he greatly regretted that a body whom he so much respected as the English Roman catholics should have treated this as an affront to their religion, when, in truth, the objections were only political. These catholics were struck, not because they were catholics, but, as to eight of them, because they were repealers. Then, as to the two others, Michael Dunn and Hendrick, there were four Michael Dunns in the same ward, three of whom had signed a repeal requisition; and it was, and still is, believed by government that this man was one of those three; for, in an affidavit which he had now made, denying that he had subscribed to the fund, he did not deny that he had signed the requisition. He defended the conduct of government in suppressing the repeal meetings, but furnished no arguments in defence that have not already been urged again and again in the tory journals. The remainder of the speech of the right honourable baronet consisted of a defence of the judicial appointments of the present cabinet, and an attempt to show up the proposed remedies of Lord John Russell, evincing throughout a spirit of partisanship and undignified quibbling quite in contrast with the temper he has usually manifested on occasions of a like character, and utterly unbecoming a minister of the crown. He concluded by calling on the House to negative the motion by a decisive majority.

The debate was then adjourned.

The *Chronicle* remarks on the debate—"The manner of Sir James Graham was exceedingly tame and heavy; he was continually prompted by Sir Robert Peel; and the occasional cheers which his friends got up for him were utterly unlike the spontaneous bursts which greeted every sentence uttered by Lord John Russell."

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords the Marquis of NORMANBY led on the attack on government, in a speech which occupies five columns of the *Times*. Lord WHARNCLIFFE acted as leading counsel for the defence, and in the course of his speech partially supplied the omission of Sir James Graham in the other house. With respect to the franchise, it was intended, in the counties, to remove the present difficulty as to the interpretation of the phrase "beneficial interests," and, in the boroughs, to modify the clause which required that all rates should be paid before the right to vote was established. An additional grant would be proposed for the purposes of education, and the obstructions which now prevented the appropriation of money to provide houses and glebes for the Roman catholic priesthood would be removed. He objected strongly to any proposal which might endanger the stability of the established church in Ireland, treating as chimerical the notion of placing the two churches upon an equality. The Marquis of Clanricarde, Lord Roden, Lord Devon, the Marquis of Westmeath, and Lord Beaumont followed; and the House of Lords performed the rare feat of adjourning the debate until to-morrow evening.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON : WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14, 1844.

SUMMARY.

PARLIAMENT has commenced its labours in the usual way—in discussing and vindicating the atrocities of foreign warfare, and in voting, with all but unanimity, its thanks to military officers and their subordinates. But, as yet, nothing relating to the welfare of the people at home has been submitted to its notice by the responsible advisers of the Crown. On Wednesday, the House of Commons adjourned at 5 o'clock; on Friday, a house was not made; so that, between entertaining subjects in which the people have not the slightest interest, and doing nothing, their time has hitherto been passed.

Let us make a single exception. On Tuesday se'nnight, as our readers would gather from our postscript, upon the *pro forma* motion for going into committee of supply, the member for Rochdale brought forward a somewhat more elaborate amendment than on the address, detailing the more important grievances of the people, questioning the competency of a House of Commons, elected as was the last, justly to levy taxation upon the people, and again submitting the propriety of inquiring into and redressing public grievances before voting those supplies which the administration requires. This amendment he introduced by a calm, temperate, and able address, which extorted praise even from Sir Robert Peel. He was seconded by Mr Williams, in a most vigorous, practical, and telling speech—the facts of which would have been startling to any assembly but one of aristocratic landed proprietors. Sir Robert Peel replied in a tone far more respectful than is his wont in dealing with members who can boast of being the leaders of no party. Of course he deprecated the line of parliamentary tactics adopted by Mr Crawford; but the whole strain of his remarks proved that he is more fearful of being obstructed in his career by this species of opposition than by any other which has yet been wielded against him. Mr Hume followed the Premier, and corrected some of the fallacies to which he had given utterance. The division showed only twenty-two in favour of the amendment.

On Thursday evening Lord Ashley brought forward the case of the Amees of Scinde, and Mr Roebuck, complaining that the noble lord had ousted him of a question which he had previously adopted as his own, submitted an amendment which showed that in his detestation of the whigs he lost sight of the demerit of the tories, and that, under the guise of independence of party, he could yet act in the spirit of a thorough partisan, and totally merge the substantial features of the case. Two things were proved to demonstration by the debate which followed—the first, that both political factions have agreed in committing a most atrocious invasion upon the rights of the Amees—the second, that when considerations of expediency prompt a certain course of action, its morality is a matter of profound indifference to both whig and tory. The discussion was of the usual character—a series of speeches consisting of party recriminations, from which the impartial observer cannot fail to gather that both sections of the aristocracy are mainly agreed, and that each pleads a sort of prescriptive right to do wrong. Neither, however, has come out from the recent contest unscathed. Each party charged the other with injustice and impolicy; and each adduced reasons to substantiate the charge which none could rebut. On the whole, the facts which raised this discussion, as well as the discussion itself, reflect infamy upon the character of Great Britain, and will doubtless do its part to produce a conviction in the public mind that the power to perpetuate such wickedness must ere long be wrested from its possessors.

On Monday evening, as a fitting pendant to the week of Thursday, Sir Robert Peel proposed a

vote of thanks to Sir Charles Napier, the general who conducted military operations in Scinde, and who presided over the carnage and destruction of Meaneey and Hyderabad. He was seconded, as a matter of course, by Lord John Russell. Lord Howick spake his dissent, but would not embody it in the shape of a motion. Mr Sharman Crawford, therefore, came to his aid, and did what the noble member for Sunderland wanted nerve to perform; and, in consistency, Lord Howick gave his vote with the honourable member for Rochdale. The minority consisted of nine members only; for the British House of Commons, having a large proportion of military and naval officers for its members, and being closely connected by various ramifications with the aristocracy of the country, is always forward to tender its gratitude to the successful destroyers of human life. Had Mr Rowland Hill, who has conferred an inestimable boon on his country, and who has a claim upon the liveliest gratitude of every family in the empire, been proposed by Mr Wallace, for example, as worthy of receiving the unanimous thanks of parliament, it is very questionable whether the motion would have been crowned with success. The difference between Mr Hill and Sir Charles Napier is great and striking. One served the people—the other, the aristocracy. One increased the stock of human comfort—the other added largely to the amount of human misery. The inventor of penny postage made science, calculation, industry, and genius, subservient to the elevation, in the social scale, of his fellow-men. The warrior of Meaneey brought the same qualities to bear upon the destruction of unoffending victims and the enlargement of the sphere of Britain's domination. Aristocracy, which the House of Commons represents, dismisses the former from office, and rewards the latter with thanks. Who, after this, will doubt what are the characteristic propensities of those who rule over us?

The Irish trials have been brought to a close, and a verdict of "Guilty," generally against all the traversers, excepting the Rev. Mr Tierney, who was found guilty upon two counts only, has been brought in. Mr O'Connell has declared his intention of bringing a writ of error until he have the opinion of the twelve judges in Ireland, on the law laid down against him, and, if necessary, of the House of Lords. His speech, in defence of himself, was a master-piece of eloquence—broad, massive, simple, majestic, and full of unanswerable argument. The Chief Justice spoke of it as irrelevant to the case. So it might have been, in respect of the jury, but Mr O'Connell spoke to Europe and to the civilised world, and they will bring him in guiltless, notwithstanding the verdict which law has pronounced against him.

Other matters are of no pressing interest, save that Spain is in the midst of another revolution—a revolution which, whatever its issue, promises to be a serious one.

PROMETHEUS BOUND.

THE state trials have closed—the jury have brought in their verdict. On several counts of the indictment, and those the most material, the traversers have been found "guilty," and the mythic legend of Prometheus is about to be realised in the political world. "Guilty!" Aye! even so, he is guilty—and the ruling power, the Jupiter of the modern drama, in hate and fear of his presumption, will chain him to a bare rock, strip him of his influence, and, if it be possible, wear out his indomitable will by fastening down his great and restless spirit to the indignity of inaction. "Guilty!" And what, then, is his crime? A most heinous one in the eyes of all oppressors. He divulged to his countrymen the great secret of liberty—stole fire from heaven, and put it into their hearts. His was a daring conception, and, come what may to himself, no power on earth can now stifle it. An angry government may consign him to punishment—but from beneath the heaviest inflictions they can lay upon him, he may look up and defy them to undo his work.

What has that work been? Look upon Ireland as it existed forty years since, and contrast it with what it is now, and you have the answer. O'Connell has his faults—great ones in our eyes—but who can deny him the merit of having raised a prostrate nation from the dust, and breathed into its soul the determination to be free? He saw a numerous people, occupants, too, of a fertile soil, sunk into the lowest depths of wretchedness and degradation—split up into hostile factions—permeated by secret and treacherous combinations—dwelling in familiar converse with the most revolting crimes—ever ready to resort to force for effecting their purposes—a bubbling cauldron of fiery discontent and reckless vice. He brought to bear upon them the force of his gigantic genius. Into the ear of that down-trodden and enslaved people he whispered, in eloquent tones, a promise which awakened hope of better things. The confidence in himself, with which he inspired them, he made available to raise their character. At his bidding faction-fights ceased—whitefootism and ribbonism slunk away—millions became united in

one band of national brotherhood. Ireland fel that there was yet the blood of life coursing through her veins. She arose from the earth—she stood erect—the Liberator was before her, and she bowed in deference to his slightest wish. What did he do? He commanded her to cast away her arms—he urged upon her prompt obedience to the law—he raised in her palpitating bosom a horror of bloodshed—he tamed her savage spirit into gentleness—taught her the virtue of patience—soothed her religious animosities—boldly rebuked her bigotry—and, having thus disciplined her, called upon her to follow him, that he might lead her to independence.

Herein lay coiled up the necessity for a state prosecution and a state conviction. O'Connell had made Ireland strong, and was advancing at her head to wrestle a throw with oligarchy. His wondrous success had made him formidable. He might have spoken what they call sedition to his heart's content, and they would have left him unmolested, but that his greatness threatened to overtop their ascendancy. It seemed all but certain that he would rescue their prey from their gripe—and aristocracy cannot put up with that. They assign as the cause of their proceeding against him, the change of system adopted by the Repeal Association in 1843. They had no objection to its agitation in 1841. Why? Because in 1841 it was weak. Tory oppression braced up its languid nerves—and its strength became its crime. As yet, anti-corn-law agitation has never seriously threatened the supremacy of landlords. With their tenants-at-will, and stringent leases, in the counties of England, with their venal freemen and unblushing corruption, in populous towns, and with agricultural boroughs which can either be bought or intimidated, they feel themselves able to defy aggression. The League, therefore, at present is safe—safe, not as many imagine from its great strength, but rather from the conviction entertained by government of its essential weakness. But should the League ever threaten to close with monopoly, and in one death-grapple to strangle it—should the issue, in the judgment of our rulers, become doubtful, and Cobden be seen, as O'Connell was, wresting a triumph from his foes in spite of their parliamentary confederation and military strength—then may we expect a state prosecution in England—and to back it, such a distribution of troops as would crush the first symptoms of popular disquietude.

The conviction of Mr O'Connell teaches us that British law, as interpreted by precedents and *dicta*, can be made to tell against every species of political combination. None are beyond reach of its fangs who stir up in people's minds a just indignation at wrong-doing—at least, if the wrong-doer be the oligarchical power. Which of the League leaders, for instance, or what advocate of complete suffrage, or of the separation of the church and the state, might not be condemned for bringing the authorities of the land into contempt, and for creating alienation between different classes of her Majesty's subjects? Imagine the Peace society to become sufficiently formidable to attract the notice and to excite the fears of the government—would not a prosecution for conspiring to spread disaffection in the army lie against it? The law, at all events, would not protect the victims. It is anything which a determined administration and a sympathising bench may think fit to make it. Men may act openly, as O'Connell did—may discourage violence, as he is proved to have done—may denounce all crime, as a means to political triumph—may inculcate rigid obedience to all authority, and to even the semblance of authority—but this does not secure them against the charge of conspiracy. A picked jury—a bench in harmony with the Crown—a skilful application of precedents—and forty thousand soldiers kept in readiness to meet all emergencies—throw a terrible weight in the scale against a defendant, for which no gravity of demeanour, no force of character, is likely to compensate.

But convictions thus obtained are of small immediate value, and ultimately subserve the cause they are intended to crush. Prometheus may indeed be bound—but who will undertake to extinguish the fire which he has kindled on mortal hearths? O'Connell may be imprisoned, but can his countrymen be untaught the sentiments his eloquence has burned into their souls? Rather, will not the late prosecution make the ardour of their passion glow with a far intenser heat? What does the verdict of the jury prove? Nothing more than the interpretation which menaced power puts upon the acts of a formidable opponent. They condemn the Liberator as a misdemeanant. How idle, how perfectly useless the parade! In consequence of this verdict, O'Connell will stand, not lower, but far higher in the admiration of Ireland, of Great Britain, of Europe, of the civilised world. That which men regarded in him heretofore as laudable, no *dictum* of law will prevail upon them to hate as vice. All men but tyrants are predisposed to sympathise with the victim of unrighteous power, more especially when his fault has been too eager a desire to exalt his country. All are sensible, moreover, that the same hand which smites



he agitator for Ireland's independence, may be soon lifted up against those who are attempting to work out the deliverance of Great Britain. It is a vain imagination of aristocracy, that opinion may be put down by military force, and that the cause which class-made law repudiates must necessarily come to an untimely end. We tell them unhesitatingly, the fire is lit up which is destined to consume the whole system of partial and unjust government which they are so intent upon maintaining intact. They may stamp upon it, but it is to no purpose. It will burn in spite of them. There exists not on earth the enginery that can extinguish it. God and man have doomed it—and its fall is at no remote distance. Neither proclamations, nor convictions, nor a corrupt legislature, nor a venal press, can long stay its inevitable fate. Outraged humanity from every quarter of the globe sends up to heaven a piercing cry for justice. Blood is upon the guilty hands of both factions. In the east, China, Afghanistan, Scinde, Gwalior, and Syria, testify against their recklessness of human life—in the west, Canada—and Australia in the south. Quickly are they filling up the measure of their crimes—and, as of old, violence and rapacity go hand in hand with hypocritical professions of zeal for religion. How the storm will overtake them, and when, none can, perhaps, conjecture—but the old adage is in course of verification in this as in other instances, "Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat."

GRIEVANCES AND SUPPLIES.

Mr Sharman Crawford's system of parliamentary agitation is telling much as we anticipated it would. It has called down upon him the heavy displeasure of Tory and Whig—of the *Times* and the *Morning Chronicle*—of Sir Robert Peel and Mr Brotherton. The cant of aristocracy is freely employed to prove him in the wrong—his objects are carefully misrepresented—his allies, never a very willing band, are one by one deserting him—and several of those who yet remain at his side disclaim all intention of proceeding to extremities. Meanwhile he is cool, cautious, and determined—evincing no aptitude to swallow flattering appeals, or to shrink from open denunciation. He has given notice for a third motion—and he will secure thereby a third discussion however meagre.

It is most important, therefore, that the position he has taken up be clearly understood. Let us examine it.

Mr Crawford, we are fully confident, would not demur to the soundness of the maxim that in all public assemblies properly constituted, the minority must of necessity yield to the majority. The denial of this doctrine may be artfully enough imputed to him by those who disrelish his present course of proceeding—but it cannot be fairly gathered from either his writings or his speeches. But if it be true that the present House of Commons has been collected into one assembly by a violation of constitutional law—if rumour be correct when it attributes to a majority of that body the having obtained their seats by illegally tampering with the constituencies—if there be any solid foundation for the averment that the House does not represent the present limited electoral bodies, and that it wholly misrepresents the great body of the people—Mr Crawford contends that a deluded nation is justified in preventing the delusion from taking effect—and that, by means of a mere handful of members attached to their interests, they have a right, as they possess the means, of reducing a semblance to a practical nullity, and of opposing to a majority who have clutched their power by a resort to practices which law and morality alike condemn, the will of that greater majority outside the walls of parliament which it has hitherto been the object of both political factions to stifle. A small numerical minority really representative of the public will are bound, according to his theory, to obstruct a house representative of little else than their own interests. And, doubtless, he is right.

This position, however, assumes that the few members who are bold enough to resort to such a measure, are only an instrument wielded by the people. Thence their authority must come, or it is nothing worth. The real contest must be between the public out of doors and parliament within—not between a few members and the rest of the house. Mr Sharman Crawford's course, therefore, must ultimately be determined by the country. He will not, we apprehend, proceed to extremities unless at the call of the substantial body of his countrymen. The weapon he holds will be powerless unless as they may give him strength to wield it. If they by their public meetings, or by their multitudinous petitions, authorise him to persevere, his whole past history proves that he is not the man to stumble over straws. The people have numerous grievances of which to complain—they are ground down by oppression—their constitutional liberties, as in Ireland, are threatened—their remonstrances pass unheeded—their wrongs continue unredressed. Do they consent to arm with the power of maintaining this state of things, the men who for the purposes of their order abet it? This is the simple question they have to answer. If they do, let them

refuse their support to Sharman Crawford—if they do not, let them instantly back him with their petitions.

We trust the member for Rochdale will not conclude too hastily against the feeling of the country on this subject. Were it indeed clearly ascertained that no great section of the people would support him, we should be the last to urge the sacrifice of himself and of his future usefulness in this noble warfare. But he must give time to the public, in order that the merits of his system may be fully appreciated. Perhaps, too, it would be wise in him to limit his demand to a full, fair, and free representation. Should he do so, and should he persevere in moving a few more amendments on motions for supply, we think he may fairly calculate upon a growing and very rapid accession of strength. Doubtless the acts of the ministry, as the session rolls on, will more fully develop the importance of cutting the sinews of their strength. The conviction of O'Connell and his fellow-traversers in Ireland, will tend to open the eyes of Englishmen to the imminent perils which encompass their liberties. Other events may be expected to occur, calculated to arouse those energies which despair only has paralysed. We conjure him, therefore, to remain at his post. He may have to wait longer than he could wish for the arrival of those forces which he deems requisite for success; but we believe he will not wait in vain. He may fail this session; but he will not have done so until he has demonstrated to the whole nation that a highway is open to them, in which they may march to the achievement of a certain, but peaceful triumph.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.—The usual weekly meeting of the National Anti-corn-law League was held on Thursday evening, in Covent Garden theatre. It was crowded, as usual, in every part of the house. The dress circles, and even private boxes, being as much so almost as other parts of the house. Mr G. Wilson, in his opening speech, referred to the Devizes election:—

Gentlemen, Mr Temple stood for Devizes, and lost, as he expected; but then good seed has been sown there; monopolists have learned that, if we contest such a place as Devizes, most assuredly we shall not suffer those boroughs to escape us where we are much more likely to have support than in this close, compact borough in the middle of North Wiltshire—Devizes (loud cheers). Gentlemen, we shall contest all boroughs (loud cheers). The monopolists may have a Devizes vacant next week, and next week a Mr Temple will be found to contest that borough on the principle of free trade (cheers).

Mr C. P. Villiers made a telling speech, chiefly consisting of comments on the Anti-league meetings. He exposed to public indignation the *Morning Herald's* recommendation to agriculturists to adopt a rigid system of exclusive dealing. Mr Cobden followed, and was received with reiterated applause. He said he had been informed that they had in the theatre that night individuals who had not yet honoured them with much attention to their claims, or attendance there; and if the better informed part of the audience would excuse him, he would revert, for that night, to the A. B. C. of the science, for the benefit of his junior pupils. Accordingly Mr Cobden entered upon a declaration of what free trade meant, and exposed the fallacies usually put forward by monopolists on the subject. The following are one or two interesting extracts from the latter portion of his speech:—

We are going to prepare a pamphlet—I am not sure whether it will not grow into a volume—of elegant extracts from monopolists' speeches! There shall be separate headings to the several extracts. One head shall be "argument;" another, "wit;" a third, "humour;" a fourth, "manners;" and a fifth, "morals;" and you shall see choice specimens of every one of them.

I do rejoice to say, that, in scanning over all the proceedings of these monopolist gatherings, I have not seen a single instance of vituperation, or anything approaching to vulgarity of language, on the part of the bona fide tenant-farmers. The monopolists of corn—the landlords—are the monopolists of all the vulgarity of language (cheers). There have been one or two individuals paraded, who have been called "farmers," and who have made long speeches; but I have taken pains to inquire a little of their whereabouts, and I find that they are all auctioneers and land-valuers, and it is a remarkable fact, that I have never met with an orator at the meetings I have attended in the agricultural districts, but he has always turned out an auctioneer or a land-valuer (laughter).

I give notice to the monopolists that in all my meetings in their counties I invite all comers to oppose me; I will consider their doing so no intrusion. Talk of their meetings! Why, I have been in every county in which they have held them, and I have no hesitation in declaring that for every hundred they have gathered together I have had a thousand on every occasion [cheers]. Take their largest number—in Essex, where it is said they had six hundred gathered, we had six thousand at Colchester! Ay, and I promise them that, when the weather comes that is favourable for open-air meetings, I will visit their counties again, and take the opinion of their population (loud cheers).

There are men now brought out by this very agitation in every borough and large town that I have visited—new men—not the old hacks of party, but persons drawn out with a solemn and earnest conviction, with a craving after justice and truth in this matter, who are diligently at work in every part of the kingdom; and though we

were to be taken off this scene in which we have been and are now, most prominent, and were unable to continue its effort, the question has gone past that time at which it can recede, and it only requires that you should continue to disseminate the knowledge which you have, and increase the interest which is felt in London on this subject, that this question will ultimately be brought to a triumphant issue. It cannot be carried *pro or con* by such insignificant boroughs as Devizes. Give us the large constituencies—give us, as we will have when another election comes (and you cannot carry this question without a dissolution), every borough in South Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire—give us Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Hull, Bristol, and all the large constituencies—give us Liverpool, ay, and give us London [tremendous applause]—and there is no minister to be found who can maintain office to carry on a system of monopolies upon the strength of a numerical majority of the House of Commons, and by the aid of the representatives of such places as Devizes or St Albans.

General Sir De Lacy Evans then briefly addressed the meeting, which shortly after separated.

STOPPING THE SUPPLIES.—At a meeting of the members of the Uxbridge Auxiliary Anti-corn-law Association, on Wednesday last—H. Hull, Esq., in the chair—to assist in carrying out the plan of the League, for raising the £100,000 fund, and for registering electors, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

3rd. That the speech from the throne, and the declaration of the Prime Minister, holding out no hope of a repeal of the corn-laws during the present session of parliament—this meeting of registered members of the Anti-corn-law League do suggest to the advocates of free trade, in the House of Commons, the propriety of endeavouring to prevent, as far as possible, the grant of public monies until this monstrous grievance be redressed.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW AGITATION.—It will be seen by the subjoined extract from the report adopted at a meeting of the members of the Metropolitan Anti-corn-law Association, held last week, that the League are about to commence carrying out their scheme of registration:—

An aggregate meeting of the members of all the branches belonging to each particular borough should be immediately convened—a strict examination made into the state of the representation, and of preparations for elections, and a report returned by the meeting to the committee of the result, accompanied by detail of what practical step, if any, the branches in each borough respectively consider necessary, to place it in a satisfactory position.

A central free-trade parliamentary registration committee room should be taken by the branches in each borough, and a central business committee drafted from the branches formed, with power to add to their number; which committee should at once proceed to elect into their body such influential and active gentlemen of free-trade opinions as have distinguished themselves by attention to elections within the borough. They should constitute themselves into a free-trade parliamentary registration society for the borough, elect an influential chairman, and a general committee of leading electors; engage a paid secretary, frame rules, fix terms of entry, enrol members, and hold weekly committee meetings for despatch of business. Circulars inviting co-operation and subscriptions, and enclosing a list of office-bearers, committee, and rules, should be issued to every elector on the register.

Branches should be organised in every parish, or other parliamentary division of each borough, each being a complete society in itself, with rules, office-bearers, committee of management, and members; and from the metropolitan enrolment sheets of members of the Anti-corn-law League, the means at once are presented of forming societies in every parliamentary subdivision of the boroughs.

GREAT MEETING OF ENGLISH CATHOLICS.—A great meeting of the English catholics was held at Free-masons' hall on Wednesday, for the purpose of adopting an address to the Sovereign, protesting against renewal of the old practice of making religious differences the grounds of civil disqualification; and expressing their alarm at the proceedings lately adopted by the law officers of the Crown, in the court of Queen's Bench in Ireland. The hall was crowded in every part long before the hour of meeting, and on the platform were a number of the leading catholics of England. Amongst those present were Lord Camoys; Lord Stourton; the Hon. Charles Langdale; the Hon. Sir Edward Vavasour, Bart.; P. H. Howard, Esq., M.P.; John Townley, Esq., M.P.; Charles Eyston, Esq.; P. C. Maxwell, Esq.; Edmund Jermingham, Esq.; &c. The chair was taken by Lord Camoys. A letter was read from the Earl of Shrewsbury, cordially approving of the object of the meeting. Lord Camoys made a short speech, and was followed by Lord Stourton, Mr Harrington, the Hon. Mr Langdale, Mr Siat, and Charles Eyston, Esq.; all of whom denounced the conduct of the government as tyrannical, and insulting to the catholics of the empire. Resolutions embodying their opinions, and an address to the Queen, were adopted, and the meeting separated after giving three cheers for O'Connell.

A meeting of 1500 Roman Catholics of the Tower Hamlets also protested, on Sunday evening, against the conduct of government in excluding all members of their persuasion from the state trial jury in Dublin.

DESTRUCTION OF HELLINGDON HOUSE.—This mansion, situated near Uxbridge, the residence of R. H. Cox, Esq., of Craig's court, Charing cross, was entirely consumed by fire on the morning of Saturday last. A portion only of the valuable property was saved. The damage is estimated at £15,000, which is covered by insurance in the Sun office. The mansion had a frontage of about eighty-five feet, and was in depth about seventy. It is only about three weeks since her Majesty lunched with the family on her way to Pollhill. The fire is supposed to have originated through a flue at the back of the staircase communicating with the roof.

MEMORIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST AN INCREASE OF THE ARMY, &c.—The following is a copy of a memorial to government on this subject, from the committee of the Peace Society:—

"To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart., First Lord of the Treasury, and to the other members of her Majesty's government.

"The memorial of the committee of the London Peace Society sheweth,

"That your memorialists are fully convinced that the prevailing practice of governments in resorting to military force, whether for the settlement of disputes, the extension of territory, the prevention of invasions, the defence of national honours and rights, or the maintenance of civil order and obedience—is altogether opposed to the spirit of the Christian religion; injurious to all the parties who are engaged in it; fraught with innumerable mischiefs to the peaceful inhabitants of the countries whose rulers have recourse to it; as well as unnecessary, and useless for any real purposes of protection, defence, or national prosperity:—

"That your memorialists are further of opinion, that the maintenance of a standing army in time of peace is repugnant to the spirit of the British constitution, and can only be regarded with serious apprehension by every true friend to the liberties of the people and the peace of the empire; since it has invariably been found that preparation for war is one of the strongest inducements to engage in, and has often led to open ruptures between nations, on the most slight and frivolous pretexts:—

"Your memorialists have, therefore, read with considerable alarm and the deepest regret, the intimations put forth in the speech delivered by her most gracious Majesty at the opening of this present session of parliament respecting 'the naval and military establishments' of the empire, implying, as to your memorialists these statements appear to do, that it is the intention of her Majesty's government not only to continue the existing military armaments, but even to increase these preparations for war:—

"Your memorialists are the more painfully affected by these statements, because in a former part of her Majesty's gracious speech, there is a most satisfactory announcement, as to the good understanding which at present exists between the British government and the governments of other nations:—

"Your memorialists are therefore constrained most respectfully and earnestly to represent to the right honourable members of her Majesty's government, their unqualified disapprobation of any addition to the naval and military establishments of the empire; and to ask that every means may be at once employed for the reduction of these establishments, and that in all cases wherein in times past it has been thought necessary to resort to military force, recourse be now had to the easy, economical, simple, and successful plan of arbitration; and that measures of conciliation may be substituted for those of coercion, in the government of every part of this great empire.

"And your memorialists will ever pray."

WESLEYAN EDUCATION MEETING.—At a meeting for the promotion of the Wesleyan education movement, at the Centenary hall, Bishopgate street, London, on Monday evening, the 5th inst, the chairman, Mr J. Scott, president of the conference, said, that the Wesleyans had calculated upon the establishment of at least two schools in each circuit. Several schools were now in operation; but they thought that 700 schools in addition to those already existing, would be required, in order that each circuit might possess two schools, one in connexion with the principal chapel in each circuit, and another in some other principal place in the circuit. Calculating the expenses of each school at £250, the cost of erecting 700 would be £175,000, and this, with £35,000 for the general fund, he believed was the calculation on which they had proceeded, when the committee expressed the opinion that a sum of £200,000 must be eventually raised. He entertained no doubt of the full accomplishment of their designs. In the course of the proceedings, a number of donations to the general fund were presented by gentlemen then present, who had not previously subscribed.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.—BOROUGH OF THE TOWER HAMLETS—The thirteenth meeting of the society in this borough, was held in Coverdale chapel, Limehouse, on the 7th inst. Mr Hugh Seaborn, minister of the chapel, presided, and opened the meeting with a suitable address. Mr Rigaud, Mr Bale, and Mr Jefferson also addressed the meeting; the attendance was about 250; many of whom expressed a warm interest in the object of the society. 97 signed the declaration.

A FATAL ACCIDENT occurred at Messrs Barclay and Perkins's brewery, on Wednesday. A vat, eighteen feet deep, was about to be cleansed; a lighted candle was lowered into it by Roberts, the foreman, to see that the carbonic acid gas was dispersed; and the light remaining unextinguished, it appeared to be safe. Steadman, a labourer, descended, hastily returned to the ladder, nearly reached the top, and fell back senseless. Harris, a fellow-labourer, offered to go down; but Roberts went himself, reached Steadman's body, and fell stupefied. A third man was lowered by a rope, but pulled up again, senseless. Means were taken to purify the air; and in a few minutes the bodies were taken out, but quite dead.

EAST LONDON SAVINGS' BANK.—The managers, in their sixth yearly report, state that the receipts from the 20th of November, 1842, to 20th of November, 1843, are £17,085 0s. 9d.; and the total receipts from the commencement, July, 1837, are £66,410 6s. 9d. The number of new accounts opened in the year is 551; and the gross number of deposits made is 18,290.

The Nelson statue in Trafalgar square is now finished. Rapid progress is also being made in the completion of the square, which, being nearly paved, looks very advantageously. The displeasing and unsightly boarding will, consequently, be soon removed, as also the clever and curious scaffolding that at present surrounds the column.

SUPPOSED TRANCE.—On Friday evening week a young man named William Francis was in the tap-room of the Marquis of Granby public house, kept by his brother, when he complained of a violent palpitation of the heart, and almost instantly fell down. He was picked up by some of the customers quite stiff and cold. Mr Hatfield, a surgeon, was sent for, who pronounced him to be quite dead, and left. Mr Taylor, of High street, afterwards attended, and although an hour had elapsed, succeeded in bleeding him, but tried several remedies ineffectually to restore animation. The inquest was called the next day, and some of the jury expressed their surprise that Mr Hatfield had not attempted to bleed the patient when he went, and thought he ought to be sent for, and that a *post mortem* examination should be made. The Coroner, however, expressed so strong an opinion that the young man had died instantly from a disease of the heart, and that it was unnecessary to call the surgeons, or have a *post mortem* examination, that the jury returned a verdict to that effect. The body was afterwards removed to the Oxford Arms, when the countenance gradually resumed its natural colour, and the chilliness of death gave way to a slight warmth, and in this state remains at the present time, without the remotest indication of approaching decomposition. On Sunday two surgeons were called in, and on opening the eyes expressed their surprise, as they did not appear set in death, but would not at that time give a positive opinion on the point. The relatives, as may be supposed, are in a state of deep anxiety, and indulge in hope of his recovery. He has been taken out of his coffin, and placed in bed until the issue is known.—*Globe*.

GENERAL EDUCATION.—A meeting to promote this object was held at Dr Burder's chapel, Hackney, on Thursday last, Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P., in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, J. R. Mills, Esq., Mr J. R. Leifchild, and by the following ministers—Messrs A. Wells, T. James and Dr Reed. Resolutions were passed approving the plan adopted at the late conference, pledging the meeting to carry it out by pecuniary donations, and appointing a committee to solicit and receive contributions. Nearly £1,000 was subscribed. On Thursday, Jan. 25, a public meeting was held at the South Islington and Pentonville British School rooms, to receive the report of the committee for the past year. Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P., took the chair, and the report was read by George Knox, Esq., the treasurer, who stated that the committee had been successful in an effort to get one hundred persons to contribute or raise the sum of £5 each, making a total of £500 towards the reduction of the debt, the greater part of which was paid in the course of the evening.

LIBERATION OF MR OASTLER.—On Monday Mr Thornhill's claim of debt—principal, interest, and costs—having been paid in full, Mr Oastler was released from the Queen's prison, Borough road. A meeting was held at the central committee room, British coffee house, Cockspur street, to receive the ransomed prisoner, and was attended by Mr Ferrand, M.P., Mr Rashleigh, M.P., Mr Walter, Mr Gathercole, and other friends of the cause. Lord Feversham took the chair. Various addresses were delivered by parties present, and votes of thanks passed to those who had assisted in Mr Oastler's liberation. A public reception will be given to Mr Oastler at Huddersfield, on Tuesday week (Shrove Tuesday), and great preparations are making to give him a "Yorkshire welcome."

CHARGE OF SHOOTING.—In the Central Criminal court, on Wednesday, Charles Edmunds, a painter, aged twenty-four, was tried for shooting at Matilda Potter. Mrs Potter was a widow, who lived with her mother, the keeper of a coffee-shop in Bridge street, Southwark. Edmunds paid his addresses to her, but her mother induced her to discard him. At a farewell visit, he attempted to fire a pistol at her: it only snapped. When taken from him, the touch-hole was found to be clogged with rust. The defence was, that he only meant to frighten the obdurate lady; but he was convicted, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

ESCAPE OF SEVEN CONVICTS.—On Saturday night seven convicts in Millbank penitentiary succeeded in effecting their escape by letting themselves down from the wall by their clothes knotted together. When their disappearance was discovered, an alarm was given, and intelligence transmitted to the police stations. In the course of Monday four of the escaped prisoners were, through the activity of the police, captured near the village of Chiswick, and re-conveyed to their old quarters. The other three have not yet been taken.

LATE HOURS OF BUSINESS.—On Friday night, a public meeting of drapers (employers and assistants) in the eastern districts, was held at the White Hart, Bishopsgate street—Mr J. Hopkins, senior, in the chair—for the purpose of adopting measures to close business at eight o'clock during the winter season, and at nine p.m. in summer. The meeting was very crowded, and amongst the gentlemen who took part in the proceedings were Messrs Peggs, Underwood, Lulwall, Hall, Kerr, Mallett, and Varty. Resolutions, condemnatory of the late hours of business, as being equally injurious to the interests of employers and assistants, and in approbation of closing at the above hours, were adopted *nem. con.* Several assistants addressed the meeting.

In the Court of Exchequer last week, several persons have been convicted in heavy penalties for tobacco smuggling, viz.: Scriviner, £350; Martin, otherwise Smith, £1,200; Salembier, £600; John Wood, £2,184; Edwin Wood, £2,184; Gardner, £2,184; Skinner, £200; Pettit, £200. Another defendant, named Fogg, was acquitted.

THE FATAL DUEL AT CAMDEN TOWN.—On Monday, at the Central Criminal court, Captain Grant, Lieutenant Munro's second in this duel, surrendered himself for trial, which was fixed to take place this day.

PROVINCIAL.

THE EDUCATION MOVEMENT.—Meetings to promote the cause of the British and Foreign School Society have been held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Portsmouth, and Macclesfield. In the former town, a bazaar is to be held in aid of the cause, on the 27th and 28th inst.; and at Portsmouth, a resolution was passed, "That the formation of a union in the towns of Portsea, Gosport, and Portsmouth, was of the highest importance. On Wednesday, the 31st ult., a meeting to promote the education of the people, numbering 500 persons, was held at the Town hall, Manchester, Dr Halley in the chair; and, among the parties present, were George Hadfield, Esq.; James Kershaw, Esq.; Dr Vaughan, Dr Davison, Dr Nolan, Dr Clunie, Mr Massie, &c. After speeches from gentlemen present, contributions were received. Mr James Kershaw's donation of £1,000 was placed at the head; Mr Alderman Armitage gave £500; Mr J. Sidebottom, £500; Mr J. Hampson, £250; Mr Thompson, £150; Mr C. Horrocks, £100; Mr Woodward, £100; Mr Dilsworth, £100; Mr John Thompson, £52 10s.; Mr James Grave, £50; Mr Mason, professor of the New College, £30; Dr Halley, £20; Dr Davison, £25; and many other donations were announced for £30, £25, £10, £5, &c. The sum mentioned as subscribed was upwards of £4,000. Dr Halley stated that he expected the amount would reach between £5,000 and £5,000, as many of their larger givers were absent. The resolution is that two schools shall be erected and maintained in connexion with the congregation in Mosley street, and that a fund shall be provided to aid weaker congregations in the town or elsewhere. On Thursday evening, the 1st instant, a public meeting was held at Merton, Surrey, to celebrate the opening of the school recently erected there, adjoining the chapel. About 100 persons were assembled at tea, at six o'clock, and the meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr Jones, of the Religious Tract Society, and other friends of education who were present.

FATAL EFFECTS OF TIGHT LACING.—A few days since, a blooming girl, aged fourteen, daughter of Mr Palmer, of the Crown inn, Chard, after running a short distance, complained of pain in her side, fell down, and died almost immediately. A *post mortem* examination was made by N. W. Spicer, Esq., and it was found that death was caused immediately by the rupture of a blood-vessel on the lungs, induced by the exertion of running, and the pressure of tightly-laced stays.—*Hereford Times*.

PETITION AGAINST THE VOTE OF THANKS TO THE INDIAN ARMY.—A petition has been sent up this week to parliament, from Reading, against voting thanks to the conquerors of Scinde. The petition was signed by ninety-six of the inhabitants, including seventeen ministers of various religious persuasions, and is as follows:—

"To the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

"The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Reading, respectfully sheweth—

"That your petitioners were exceedingly distressed at a vote of thanks, passed in last session of parliament, to the forces employed in the invasion of Afghan and China; and, observing that notice has been given of the thanks of the House of Commons to the forces lately employed in the conquest of Scinde, they desire solemnly to disclaim all participation in these transactions.

"That parliament would do well seriously to pause before they accept a transfer of the wickedness of the late invasion of Scinde.

"For, besides the misery and slaughter inflicted on the inhabitants of that country, it appears that a large number of British troops have perished since they entered the territory of Scinde; and that, by later accounts, a fearful mortality prevailed among the remains of the army.

"Your petitioners beseech the House of Commons seriously to consider whether, by passing the proposed vote of thanks for transactions which must needs be offensive in the divine sight, they may not deprive themselves of that blessing on their deliberations, which, as a Christian senate, they should anxiously desire.

"For these reasons, and fully believing that the proposed vote of thanks would neither be for the honour of parliament, nor acceptable to the public—great numbers of whom regard the Indian wars with abhorrence—your petitioners pray that the motion for a vote of thanks to the forces lately employed in the invasion of the territories of the Amirs of Scinde may be negatived or withdrawn."

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Saturday, as Sir William Follett, in company with Messrs Crowder, Alexander, and Wordsworth, was returning from Maidstone, where they had been attending some railway compensation cases, having engaged a special train, on its arrival at New Cross, on the Greenwich railway, there were three men employed with trucks on the railway. The train not being expected, the men had scarcely time to save themselves, leaving the trucks across the rails; the engineer had not time to stop the engine, a collision took place, and the shock was violent; however, we are happy to say that the learned solicitor-general and his colleagues escaped without injury.

NORTH WILTS ELECTION.—On Monday the nomination took place at Devizes, when Mr Sootheron was returned without opposition; Mr Edridge, of Puckeridge house, having withdrawn on Saturday, there being no chance of his success. He had previously visited all the most popular places in the division, and was everywhere most enthusiastically received. Mr Moore, Mr Sidney Smith, Mr Acland, and Mr Falvey, from the Anti-corn-law League, also delivered lectures in almost every town in the district.

MYSERIOUS OCCURRENCE.—Mr Francis Close, the incumbent of Cheltenham, received at his residence, the "Grange," on Thursday evening, a hamper from Birmingham, which, on being unfastened, was found to contain a very handsome child's coffin. This was shortly after opened before the parish authorities, and was found to contain the dead body of a remarkably fine new-born male infant, apparently about a fortnight old. The result of a *post-mortem* examination leaves no reason to apprehend that the child had come by its death by unfair treatment. Active exertions are being made by the police to endeavour to trace out the author of this unpleasant affair. Mr Close is a married man with a large family, and it is not long ago that a base attempt was made to afflilate a child upon him, which turned out on the most rigid inquiry to be utterly groundless. It is conjectured that the same parties, who have since left Cheltenham, have had a hand in this affair. An inquest took place on Friday, but nothing material arose from it. It was further adjourned, to allow the police time to pursue their inquiries.

SHIPWRECK.—The violent weather has occasioned several serious losses on the coasts. One of the most distressing shipwrecks was that of the brig *Sterling*, on the Scroby Sands, off Yarmouth. Six of the crew were washed away; and the master, Mr Hunter, with his apprentice, Elijah Venus, remained eight hours clinging to the mainmast, in the water, before a life-boat, which was pushed off to rescue them, succeeded in getting at the wreck.

DEVIZES ELECTION.—Mr L. Bruges was on Tuesday last returned for Devizes by a majority of 206 to 64 over Mr Temple, the liberal candidate. A correspondent of the *Patriot* gives the following particulars:—

Another cause of defeat is the lamentable defection, from the ranks of liberalism, of some of the leading dissenters, those who, only last year, strenuously opposed the Factories bill, and declared themselves as decided friends to civil and religious liberty, and who have now either refused to support, or have opposed, a gentleman, one of whose greatest recommendations is, that he is the friend of civil and religious liberty. It is a source of the most pungent regret that the Rev. Richard Elliott, who for 40 years has been the respected minister at the Independent chapel, and who has hitherto borne so high a character for consistency and principle, should now have deserted the ranks of the liberals. One of the deacons of the Independent church, after promising neutrality, voted for Bruges. Others, also, from whom better things might have been expected, have evinced a timidity and want of principle perfectly inexplicable.

EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—The inquest on the bodies of James Hanney and Proctor Wm Scott, who were recently killed on the Eastern Counties railroad, was closed at Chelmsford, after a third sitting, with the following verdict:—"Manslaughter against some person or persons unknown," with this addendum—"The jury desire to express their opinion that, in order to insure the safety of the public, it is expedient on the part of the Eastern Counties Railway Company, and every other railway company, to appoint a trustworthy person, under their immediate control, to superintend the arrangement of the points and cross rails, both by night and by day, but more particularly by night."

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.—Monday last a grand celebration took place at Dover in honour of the opening of this line to that town. In order to cement the bonds of friendship between England, France, and Belgium, invitations were sent to the authorities of Ostend, Calais, and Boulogne, to join them in the festivities. Invitations were also sent to the authorities and other inhabitants of Deal, Folkestone, and the other neighbouring towns, and many of our neighbours on either side of the Channel were in attendance. A grand dinner afterwards took place, at which there was a crowded attendance.

THE FLINTSHIRE COALIERS have struck work for an advance of wages, at a time when hundreds of working men are in a total want of employment. This movement has been urged by the delegates from the north.—*Shrewsbury Chronicle*.

PLAYING CARDS AT CHURCH.—On Wednesday week, two young men named Wright and Soames, were brought up before the Bury magistrates, and committed for trial for playing at cards in church.

Anti-league meetings have been held during the past week at Winchester, Devizes, Croydon, Kingston-upon-Thames, Gloucester, and other places. At Devizes, £1,200 was collected, and the Hon. Sidney Herbert, a member of the government, said—"I know there is every disposition, on the part of those who hold the reins of power, to uphold and maintain the laws as they now are" [great cheers].

IRELAND.

THE STATE TRIALS.

Nineteenth day—Monday, Feb. 5th.

In the postscript of our last number, we briefly adverted to Mr O'Connell's speech, in his own defence, in the Court of Queen's Bench. We now subjoin a summary of this splendid and dignified oratorical effort. The knowledge of the fact that Mr O'Connell was to address the Court, drew a larger concourse than usual of all classes to the neighbourhood of the court this morning. At an early hour the Queen's Bench was thronged in every part, a great portion of the auditors consisting of fashionably-dressed ladies and members of the most distinguished families in the country.

Mr O'Connell began by requesting the patient attention of the jury while he showed them that he had a right to their favourable verdict. He stood there not his own client alone; he had the Irish people for his clients; he had Ireland to plead for—with her right to constitutional privileges and separate legislation, and his only anxiety was lest the

sacred cause should be retarded by any thing of which he had been the instrument. Anxious to disclose the purity of his motives, he acknowledged that he could not endure the Union. It was based on the grossest insult, and arose from an intolerance of Irish prosperity. They were malefactors who perpetrated the act. All that he had said on the subject he avowed, he justified. He felt that he laboured under disadvantages, but this was not the time to discuss how the jury had been placed in that box. The Attorney-general had only done what the law allowed him. It was certain that there was a great discrepancy between him and them—a discrepancy both religious and political; if it was not so, the jury now before them would not be in that box. But notwithstanding all this, he relied upon their integrity and honesty. He would now pass to the consideration of the case itself. It was a curious prosecution—most curious. It comprehended a mass of matter, and embraced incidents scarcely covered by a period of nine or ten months. The memory fails to recall all those circumstances brought in evidence, and the judgment to distinguish what is important from what is not so. It was hard to say what the true question really was. Its entire strength seemed to consist in the cabalistic word "conspiracy." There was a legal definition given of it, which declared it to consist either in seeking what was unlawful, or what was lawful by unlawful means. These were like two hooks to the line; but as to the second branch he could not admit it. Conspiracy could not be spelt out by casual circumstances. It was admitted by the Crown in this case that there was no private agreement—no secrecy. It was a monstrous thing to call that a conspiracy which everybody knew—which was constituted by an advertisement in the public papers. The learned gentleman dwelt on this topic at some length, and then proceeded to say that the Attorney-general had disappointed public expectation in not being able to show any facts or incidents connected with this charge, which were not previously perfectly well known. What had become of all that was deep, dark, and dangerous, which it was insinuated would be brought to light on this trial? Where were all the "gorgons and chimeras dire?" Nothing of the kind was disclosed. The prosecution was, in short, a purely ministerial one, and the question raised was one between the present ministers, who were going to enlarge their franchises, and the whigs who promised much, and did very little. And now as to the evidence—what did it bring to light? There was every temptation to men to exaggerate, to falsify, or betray; but nothing was betrayed, for the simplest reason in the world, because there was nothing to betray. Would the jury believe that he (Mr O'Connell) had entered into a public conspiracy? He had refused the high office of master of the rolls—it was a question if he had not also refused that of chief baron—and would the jury believe that, after this, he could have the cruelty, the folly to enter into a conspiracy of this kind? They could not believe it. They must acquit him of it. The learned gentleman next alluded to the extensive combination which had been formed in England for the purpose of putting down the slave-trade—and asked why was not Wilberforce indicted for conspiracy? The venerable Clarkson was yet alive—why was he not indicted for conspiracy? He (Mr O'Connell) had also a share in that conspiracy, and yet no one presumed to interfere with him. Let the jury then beware of driving men into corners and the dark—and forcing them into real conspiracies—for that would be the result if they punished such proceedings as these. He asked, if parliamentary reform, or catholic emancipation, would ever have been carried, if it were not for great meetings, and the great agitation which was got up to carry them? On one day they had held their great simultaneous meetings, and yet the Attorney-general of the time never thought of turning them into evidence of a conspiracy. Such a proceeding was reserved for the Attorney-general of the present. The Anti-corn-law League in England held great meetings and collected money—so did the Anti-slavery Society—and they had not been prosecuted. And was precedent for such a proceeding to be sent for to Ireland? In England they were safe in the integrity of the jury-box—they had an angel wing protecting them in that tribunal. Now, gentlemen, said Mr O'Connell, addressing himself to the jury, will you not protect us as an English jury protects them? I ask no more—I will be satisfied with no less. The learned gentleman next adverted to what he called the machinery of the evidence: it consisted of monster meetings, and newspaper publications. With respect to the meetings, he did not deny them, nor did he deny that they consisted of thousands, and tens of thousands of people; but what harm had they done? No person was injured or frightened by them. The people had been educated and trained by him to such peaceable conduct, and let the verdict on this occasion be what it might, the people would continue to be peaceable. When at length a proclamation was issued against their meeting, they immediately obeyed it. Such was the conspiracy—such the conspirators who were now under charge. Their meetings were legal, and perfectly suitable to the purpose they had in view. They had never been interfered with till in the last instance. He did not blame the Attorney-general for not prosecuting the persons who joined in them; he did not blame him, for he had no ground for doing so. The learned gentleman next commented on the character of the evidence, which consisted of publications in the newspapers; and protested against being made responsible for such productions. The Repeal Association had no newspaper organs, and gave its sanction to none of them. But besides this, if the newspapers published libels, why were not their proprietors made responsible for them? The learned gentleman next spoke to

his own political text—"The man who commits a crime gives strength to the enemy." He declared himself the founder and the apostle of a new sect, whose object it was to effect political changes without violating any law, or shedding one drop of human blood. It was a principle of his religion, and if there was any one gentleman in the jury box of his persuasion, he would know it to be so. His sincerity on this point had never been impugned. He had proved it on many occasions by his denunciation of a dangerous combination among the workmen of Dublin—by his denunciation of the ribbonmen and all unlawful societies. The learned gentleman here travelled over a great many incidents of his political life, in proof of this position. In the course of this excursion he glanced at his opposition to the poor laws—the evidence of Mr Bond Hughes (which he highly praised)—his repudiation of American slavery—his refusal of co-operation with the republicans of France—and his respect for Henry the Fifth, or whoever might be the legitimate heir to the ancient hereditary monarchy of France—his protest against the chartists, and his having effectually prevented the Irish in England from joining them—and his constant allegiance to the sovereign. He had come to that time of life when the Queen could do nothing for him, but never had he spoken disrespectfully of her Majesty; if any such expression had been attributed to him, he denounced it as a falsehood. "My energies," said the learned gentleman, "have declined, but my ardent love of Ireland remains unabated. What remains of life I now devote to obtaining a repeal of the union. I maintain that every Irishman ought to be a repealer; and, before I sit down to-day, I expect to make many converts to my opinion." Here the learned gentleman commenced a repeal speech; gave a history of the union; and went through all the topics which have made the materials of his public speeches on this question for many months—nay, years, past. In conclusion, he said—I utterly deny that I have said or done anything to warrant the imputation that I am a conspirator. I reject the accusation with contempt. I acted in the open day, in the presence of the government, of the magistrates, and I said nothing that I would not expose to the universal world. I have struggled for the restoration of the parliament of my native country. Some have succeeded in the attempt—others have failed. If I succeed, or if I fail, it is a glorious struggle to make—it is glorious to strive that the first land upon the earth should possess that bounty and benefit which God and nature alike intended it should enjoy [applause].

The court then adjourned.

Mr O'Connell was loudly cheered while passing through the hall, and in the vicinity of the courts, upon his way home.

Twenty-first day—Tuesday, Feb. 6th.

On Tuesday the evidence for the defence was gone into and completed, the traversers having wisely resolved not to waste time by a repetition of facts already established. The opinions of Mr O'Connell against the union were proved to have been avowed in 1810, at public meetings where men distinguished for their conservative principles expressed full concurrence in them, and petitioned parliament for repeal. The practice of the society of Friends, and of body of merchants, in submitting their differences to arbitration (in what is called the "Ouzel Gally Club"), and thus virtually withdrawing causes from courts of law, was also proved; Mr O'Connell's frequent warnings against violence, and his causing an inflammatory motto to be pulled down from an arch at Tullamore, on occasion of a repeal meeting, were also given in evidence; and the case for the defendants closed with the reading of certain resolutions passed at the monster meetings, and which avowed loyalty to the Queen.

Twenty-second day—Wednesday, Feb. 7th.

On this day the Solicitor-general commenced his reply on behalf of the Crown. He commenced by observing that the momentous nature of the trial—the vast variety of topics introduced—the array of talent against which he appeared single-handed—the consequences of the verdict upon the law of the land, as well as upon the peace, the happiness, and, he might add, the tranquillity of their country—all these were calculated to appal a person of greater power than he possessed in the discharge of the task he had to perform. He observed that the eight gentlemen who had addressed them had introduced matter not only different, but inconsistent; but in one respect they marvellously concurred—the absence of the least reference to the merits of the case. They had not, in fact, introduced one observation upon the real merits of the question, but had carefully evaded touching upon the question which the jury had been sworn to investigate—namely, the existence or non-existence of the conspiracy with which they had been charged. He denied the charge that government had seduced the people into crime, contending that every warning had been held out, and that the prosecution which had been ultimately resolved upon was one which they had every reason to expect, and could not have been brought forward with effect earlier than it was. They had been told, *usque ad nauseam*, that this was an attack on the legal and constitutional rights of the people—an attempt to put down free discussion. It was his thorough belief and conviction that a verdict which could have the effect of stopping the proceedings to which those unfortunate persons had become victims, would be the most favourable result which could happen for them. It would not abridge their rights, but lead to their amelioration in every respect. But it was then said the Crown were prosecuting for the purpose of putting an end to free discussion. Now, his reply to that was—they were not prosecuting

MEMORIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST AN INCREASE OF THE ARMY, &c.—The following is a copy of a memorial to government on this subject, from the committee of the Peace Society:—

" To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart., First Lord of the Treasury, and to the other members of her Majesty's government.

" The memorial of the committee of the London Peace Society sheweth,

" That your memorialists are fully convinced that the prevailing practice of governments in resorting to military force, whether for the settlement of disputes, the extension of territory, the prevention of invasions, the defence of national honours and rights, or the maintenance of civil order and obedience—is altogether opposed to the spirit of the Christian religion; injurious to all the parties who are engaged in it; fraught with innumerable mischiefs to the peaceful inhabitants of the countries whose rulers have recourse to it; as well as unnecessary, and useless for any real purposes of protection, defence, or national prosperity:—

" That your memorialists are further of opinion, that the maintenance of a standing army in time of peace is repugnant to the spirit of the British constitution, and can only be regarded with serious apprehension by every true friend to the liberties of the people and the peace of the empire; since it has invariably been found that preparation for war is one of the strongest inducements to engage in, and has often led to open ruptures between nations, on the most slight and frivolous pretexts:—

" Your memorialists have, therefore, read with considerable alarm and the deepest regret, the intimations put forth in the speech delivered by her most gracious Majesty at the opening of this present session of parliament respecting 'the naval and military establishments' of the empire, implying, as to your memorialists these statements appear to do, that it is the intention of her Majesty's government not only to continue the existing military armaments, but even to increase these preparations for war:—

" Your memorialists are the more painfully affected by these statements, because in a former part of her Majesty's gracious speech, there is a most satisfactory announcement, as to the good understanding which at present exists between the British government and the governments of other nations:—

" Your memorialists are therefore constrained most respectfully and earnestly to represent to the right honourable members of her Majesty's government, their unqualified disapprobation of any addition to the naval and military establishments of the empire; and to ask that every means may be at once employed for the reduction of these establishments, and that in all cases wherein in times past it has been thought necessary to resort to military force, recourse be now had to the easy, economical, simple, and successful plan of arbitration; and that measures of conciliation may be substituted for those of coercion, in the government of every part of this great empire.

" And your memorialists will ever pray."

WESLEYAN EDUCATION MEETING.—At a meeting for the promotion of the Wesleyan education movement, at the Centenary hall, Bishopsgate street, London, on Monday evening, the 5th inst, the chairman, Mr J. Scott, president of the conference, said, that the Wesleyans had calculated upon the establishment of at least two schools in each circuit. Several schools were now in operation; but they thought that 700 schools in addition to those already existing, would be required, in order that each circuit might possess two schools, one in connexion with the principal chapel in each circuit, and another in some other principal place in the circuit. Calculating the expenses of each school at £250, the cost of erecting 700 would be £175,000, and this, with £35,000 for the general fund, he believed was the calculation on which they had proceeded, when the committee expressed the opinion that a sum of £200,000 must be eventually raised. He entertained no doubt of the full accomplishment of their designs. In the course of the proceedings, a number of donations to the general fund were presented by gentlemen then present, who had not previously subscribed.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.—BOROUGH OF THE TOWNS HAMMERS.—The thirteenth meeting of the society in this borough, was held in Coverdale chapel, Limehouse, on the 7th inst. Mr Hugh Seaborn, minister of the chapel, presided, and opened the meeting with a suitable address. Mr Rigaud, Mr Bale, and Mr Jefferson also addressed the meeting; the attendance was about 250; many of whom expressed a warm interest in the object of the society. 97 signed the declaration.

A FATAL ACCIDENT occurred at Messrs Barclay and Perkins's brewery, on Wednesday. A vat, eighteen feet deep, was about to be cleaned; a lighted candle was lowered into it by Roberts, the foreman, to see that the carbonic acid gas was dispersed; and the light remaining unextinguished, it appeared to be safe. Steadman, a labourer, descended, hastily returned to the ladder, nearly reached the top, and fell back senseless. Harris, a fellow-labourer, offered to go down; but Roberts went himself, reached Steadman's body, and fell stupified. A third man was lowered by a rope, but pulled up again, senseless. Means were taken to purify the air; and in a few minutes the bodies were taken out, but quite dead.

EAST LONDON SAVINGS' BANK.—The managers, in their sixth yearly report, state that the receipts from the 20th of November, 1842, to 20th of November, 1843, are £17,086 0s. 9d.; and the total receipts from the commencement, July, 1837, are £66,410 0s. 9d. The number of new accounts opened in the year is 551; and the gross number of deposits made is 18,290.

The Nelson statue in Trafalgar square is now finished. Rapid progress is also being made in the completion of the square, which, being nearly paved, looks very advantageously. The displeasing and unsightly boarding will, consequently, be soon removed, as also the clever and curious scaffolding that at present surrounds the column.

SUPPOSED TRANCE.—On Friday evening week a young man named William Francis was in the tap-room of the Marquis of Granby public house, kept by his brother, when he complained of a violent palpitation of the heart, and almost instantly fell down. He was picked up by some of the customers quite stiff and cold. Mr Hatfield, a surgeon, was sent for, who pronounced him to be quite dead, and left. Mr Taylor, of High street, afterwards attended, and, although an hour had elapsed, succeeded in bleeding him, but tried several remedies ineffectually to restore animation. The inquest was called the next day, and some of the jury expressed their surprise that Mr Hatfield had not attempted to bleed the patient when he went, and thought he ought to be sent for, and that a *post mortem* examination should be made. The Coroner, however, expressed so strong an opinion that the young man had died instantly from a disease of the heart, and that it was unnecessary to call the surgeons, or have a *post mortem* examination, that the jury returned a verdict to that effect. The body was afterwards removed to the Oxford Arms, when the countenance gradually resumed its natural colour, and the chilliness of death gave way to a slight warmth, and in this state remains at the present time, without the remotest indication of approaching decomposition. On Sunday two surgeons were called in, and on opening the eyes expressed their surprise, as they did not appear set in death, but would not at that time give a positive opinion on the point. The relatives, as may be supposed, are in a state of deep anxiety, and indulge in hope of his recovery. He has been taken out of his coffin, and placed in bed until the issue is known. —*Globe.*

GENERAL EDUCATION.—A meeting to promote this object was held at Dr Burder's chapel, Hackney, on Thursday last, Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P., in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, J. R. Mills, Esq., Mr J. R. Leifield, and by the following ministers—Messrs A. Wells, T. James and Dr Reed. Resolutions were passed approving the plan adopted at the late conference, pledging the meeting to carry it out by pecuniary donations, and appointing a committee to solicit and receive contributions. Nearly £1,000 was subscribed. On Thursday, Jan. 25, a public meeting was held at the South Islington and Pentonville British School rooms, to receive the report of the committee for the past year. Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P., took the chair, and the report was read by George Knox, Esq., the treasurer, who stated that the committee had been successful in an effort to get one hundred persons to contribute or raise the sum of £5 each, making a total of £500 towards the reduction of the debt, the greater part of which was paid in the course of the evening.

LIBERATION OF MR OASTLER.—On Monday Mr Thornhill's claim of debt—principal, interest, and costs—having been paid in full, Mr Oastler was released from the Queen's prison, Borough road. A meeting was held at the central committee room, British coffee house, Cockspur street, to receive the ransomed prisoner, and was attended by Mr Ferrand, M.P., Mr Rashleigh, M.P., Mr Walter, Mr Gathercole, and other friends of the cause. Lord Feversham took the chair. Various addresses were delivered by parties present, and votes of thanks passed to those who had assisted in Mr Oastler's liberation. A public reception will be given to Mr Oastler at Huddersfield, on Tuesday week (Shrove Tuesday), and great preparations are making to give him a "Yorkshire welcome."

CHARGE OF SHOOTING.—In the Central Criminal court, on Wednesday, Charles Edmunds, a painter, aged twenty-four, was tried for shooting at Matilda Potter. Mrs Potter was a widow, who lived with her mother, the keeper of a coffee-shop in Bridge street, Southwark. Edmunds paid his addresses to her, but her mother induced her to discard him. At a farewell visit, he attempted to fire a pistol at her: it only snapped. When taken from him, the touch-hole was found to be clogged with rust. The defence was, that he only meant to frighten the obdurate lady; but he was convicted, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

ESCAPE OF SEVEN CONVICTS.—On Saturday night seven convicts in Millbank penitentiary succeeded in effecting their escape by letting themselves down from the wall by their clothes knotted together. When their disappearance was discovered, an alarm was given, and intelligence transmitted to the police stations. In the course of Monday four of the escaped prisoners were, through the activity of the police, captured near the village of Chiswick, and re-conveyed to their old quarters. The other three have not yet been taken.

LATE HOURS OF BUSINESS.—On Friday night, a public meeting of drapers (employers and assistants) in the eastern districts, was held at the White Hart, Bishopsgate street—Mr J. Hopkins, senior, in the chair—for the purpose of adopting measures to close business at eight o'clock during the winter season, and at nine p.m. in summer. The meeting was very crowded, and amongst the gentlemen who took part in the proceedings were Messrs Peggs, Underwood, Lulwall, Hall, Kerr, Mallett, and Varty. Resolutions, condemnatory of the late hours of business, as being equally injurious to the interests of employers and assistants, and in approbation of closing at the above hours, were adopted *unanimously*. Several assistants addressed the meeting.

In the Court of Exchequer last week, several persons have been convicted in heavy penalties for tobacco smuggling, viz.: Scrivener, £350; Martin, otherwise Smith, £1,200; Salembier, £600; John Wood, £2,184; Edwin Wood, £2,184; Gardner, £2,184; Skinner, £200; Pettit, £200. Another defendant, named Fogg, was acquitted.

THE FATAL DUEL AT CAMDEN TOWN.—On Monday, at the Central Criminal court, Captain Grant, Lieutenant Munro's second in this duel, surrendered himself for trial, which was fixed to take place this day.

PROVINCIAL.

THE EDUCATION MOVEMENT.—Meetings to promote the cause of the British and Foreign School Society have been held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Portsmouth, and Macclesfield. In the former town, a bazaar is to be held in aid of the cause, on the 27th and 28th inst.; and at Portsmouth, a resolution was passed, "That the formation of a union in the towns of Portsea, Gosport, and Portsmouth, was of the highest importance. On Wednesday, the 31st ult., a meeting to promote the education of the people, numbering 500 persons, was held at the Town hall, Manchester, Dr Halley in the chair; and, among the parties present, were George Hadfield, Esq.; James Kershaw, Esq.; Dr Vaughan, Dr Davison, Dr Nolan, Dr Clunie, Mr Massie, &c. After speeches from gentlemen present, contributions were received. Mr James Kershaw's donation of £1,000 was placed at the head; Mr Alderman Armitage gave £500; Mr J. Sidebottom, £500; Mr J. Hampson, £250; Mr Thompson, £150; Mr C. Horrocks, £100; Mr Woodward, £100; Mr Dilsworth, £100; Mr John Thompson, £52 10s.; Mr James Grave, £50; Mr Mason, professor of the New College, £30; Dr Halley, £20; Dr Davidson, £25; and many other donations were announced for £30, £25, £10, £5, &c. The sum mentioned as subscribed was upwards of £4,000. Dr Halley stated that he expected the amount would reach between £5,000 and £5,000, as many of their larger givers were absent. The resolution is that two schools shall be erected and maintained in connexion with the congregation in Mosley street, and that a fund shall be provided to aid weaker congregations in the town or elsewhere. On Thursday evening, the 1st instant, a public meeting was held at Merton, Surrey, to celebrate the opening of the school recently erected there, adjoining the chapel. About 100 persons were assembled at tea, at six o'clock, and the meeting was afterwards addressed by Mr Jones, of the Religious Tract Society, and other friends of education who were present.

FATAL EFFECTS OF TIGHT LACING.—A few days since, a blooming girl, aged fourteen, daughter of Mr Palmer, of the Crown inn, Chard, after running a short distance, complained of pain in her side, fell down, and died almost immediately. A *post mortem* examination was made by N. W. Spicer, Esq., and it was found that death was caused immediately by the rupture of a blood-vessel on the lungs, induced by the exertion of running, and the pressure of tightly-laced stays.—*Hereford Times.*

PETITION AGAINST THE VOTE OF THANKS TO THE INDIAN ARMY.—A petition has been sent up this week to parliament, from Reading, against voting thanks to the conquerors of Scinde. The petition was signed by ninety-six of the inhabitants, including seventeen ministers of various religious persuasions, and is as follows:—

" To the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

" The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Reading, respectfully sheweth—

" That your petitioners were exceedingly distressed at a vote of thanks, passed in last session of parliament, to the forces employed in the invasion of Afghanistan and China; and, observing that notice has been given of the thanks of the House of Commons to the forces lately employed in the conquest of Scinde, they desire solemnly to disclaim all participation in these transactions.

" That parliament would do well seriously to pause before they accept a transfer of the wickedness of the late invasion of Scinde.

" For, besides the misery and slaughter inflicted on the inhabitants of that country, it appears that a large number of British troops have perished since they entered the territory of Scinde; and that, by later accounts, a fearful mortality prevailed among the remains of the army.

" Your petitioners beseech the House of Commons seriously to consider whether, by passing the proposed vote of thanks for transactions which must needs be offensive in the divine sight, they may not deprive themselves of that blessing on their deliberations, which, as a Christian senate, they should anxiously desire.

" For these reasons, and fully believing that the proposed vote of thanks would neither be for the honour of parliament, nor acceptable to the public—great numbers of whom regard the Indian wars with abhorrence—your petitioners pray that the motion for a vote of thanks to the forces lately employed in the invasion of the territories of the Amirs of Scinde may be negatived or withdrawn."

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Saturday, as Sir William Follett, in company with Messrs Crowder, Alexander, and Wordsworth, was returning from Maidstone, where they had been attending some railway compensation cases, having engaged a special train, on its arrival at New Cross, on the Greenwich railway, there were three men employed with trucks on the railway. The train not being expected, the men had scarcely time to save themselves, leaving the trucks across the rails; the engineer had not time to stop the engine, a collision took place, and the shock was violent; however, we are happy to say that the learned solicitor-general and his colleagues escaped without injury.

NORTH WILTS ELECTION.—On Monday the nomination took place at Devizes, when Mr Sotheron was returned without opposition; Mr Edridge, of Puckeridge house, having withdrawn on Saturday, there being no chance of his success. He had previously visited all the most popular places in the division, and was everywhere most enthusiastically received. Mr Moore, Mr Sidney Smith, Mr Acland, and Mr Falvey, from the Anti-corn-law League, also delivered lectures in almost every town in the district.

MYSERIOUS OCCURRENCE.—Mr Francis Close, the incumbent of Cheltenham, received at his residence, the "Grange," on Thursday evening, a hamper from Birmingham, which, on being unfastened, was found to contain a very handsome child's coffin. This was shortly after opened before the parish authorities, and was found to contain the dead body of a remarkably fine new-born male infant, apparently about a fortnight old. The result of a *post-mortem* examination leaves no reason to apprehend that the child had come by its death by unfair treatment. Active exertions are being made by the police to endeavour to trace out the author of this unpleasant affair. Mr Close is a married man with a large family, and it is not long ago that a base attempt was made to afflilate a child upon him, which turned out on the most rigid inquiry to be utterly groundless. It is conjectured that the same parties, who have since left Cheltenham, have had a hand in this affair. An inquest took place on Friday, but nothing material arose from it. It was further adjourned, to allow the police time to pursue their inquiries.

SHIPWRECK.—The violent weather has occasioned several serious losses on the coasts. One of the most distressing shipwrecks was that of the brig *Sterling*, on the Scroby Sands, off Yarmouth. Six of the crew were washed away; and the master, Mr Hunter, with his apprentice, Elijah Venus, remained eight hours clinging to the mainmast, in the water, before a life-boat, which was pushed off to rescue them, succeeded in getting at the wreck.

DEVIZES ELECTION.—Mr L. Bruges was on Tuesday last returned for Devizes by a majority of 206 to 64 over Mr Temple, the liberal candidate. A correspondent of the *Patriot* gives the following particulars:—

Another cause of defeat is the lamentable defection, from the ranks of liberalism, of some of the leading dissenters, those who, only last year, strenuously opposed the Factories bill, and declared themselves as decided friends to civil and religious liberty, and who have now either refused to support, or have opposed, a gentleman, one of whose greatest recommendations is, that he is the friend of civil and religious liberty. It is a source of the most pungent regret that the Rev. Richard Elliott, who for 40 years has been the respected minister at the Independent chapel, and who has hitherto borne so high a character for consistency and principle, should now have deserted the ranks of the liberals. One of the deacons of the Independent church, after promising neutrality, voted for Bruges. Others, also, from whom better things might have been expected, have evinced a timidity and want of principle perfectly inexplicable.

EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—The inquest on the bodies of James Hanney and Proctor Wm Scott, who were recently killed on the Eastern Counties railroad, was closed at Chelmsford, after a third sitting, with the following verdict:—"Man-slaughter against some person or persons unknown," with this addendum—"The jury desire to express their opinion that, in order to insure the safety of the public, it is expedient on the part of the Eastern Counties Railway Company, and every other railway company, to appoint a trustworthy person, under their immediate control, to superintend the arrangement of the points and cross rails, both by night and by day, but more particularly by night."

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.—Monday last a grand celebration took place at Dover in honour of the opening of this line to that town. In order to cement the bonds of friendship between England, France, and Belgium, invitations were sent to the authorities of Ostend, Calais, and Boulogne, to join them in the festivities. Invitations were also sent to the authorities and other inhabitants of Deal, Folkestone, and the other neighbouring towns, and many of our neighbours on either side of the Channel were in attendance. A grand dinner afterwards took place, at which there was a crowded attendance.

THE FLINTSHIRE COLLISAS have struck work for an advance of wages, at a time when hundreds of working men are in a total want of employment. This movement has been urged by the delegates from the north.—*Shrewsbury Chronicle*.

PLAYING CARDS AT CHURCH.—On Wednesday week, two young men named Wright and Soames, were brought up before the Bury magistrates, and committed for trial for playing at cards in church.

Anti-league meetings have been held during the past week at Winchester, Devizes, Croydon, Kingston-upon-Thames, Gloucester, and other places. At Devizes, £1,200 was collected, and the Hon. Sidney Herbert, a member of the government, said—"I know there is every disposition, on the part of those who hold the reins of power, to uphold and maintain the laws as they now are" [great cheers].

IRELAND.

THE STATE TRIALS.

Nineteenth day—Monday, Feb. 5th.

In the postscript of our last number, we briefly adverted to Mr O'Connell's speech, in his own defence, in the Court of Queen's Bench. We now subjoin a summary of this splendid and dignified oratorical effort. The knowledge of the fact that Mr O'Connell was to address the Court, drew a larger concourse than usual of all classes to the neighbourhood of the court, this morning. At an early hour the Queen's Bench was thronged in every part, a great portion of the auditors consisting of fashionably-dressed ladies and members of the most distinguished families in the country.

Mr O'Connell began by requesting the patient attention of the jury while he showed them that he had a right to their favourable verdict. He stood there not his own client alone; he had the Irish people for his clients; he had Ireland to plead for—with her right to constitutional privileges and separate legislation, and his only anxiety was lest the

sacred cause should be retarded by any thing of which he had been the instrument. Anxious to disclose the purity of his motives, he acknowledged that he could not endure the Union. It was based on the grossest insult, and arose from an intolerance of Irish prosperity. They were malefactors who perpetrated the act. All that he had said on the subject he avowed, he justified. He felt that he laboured under disadvantages, but this was not the time to discuss how the jury had been placed in that box. The Attorney-general had only done what the law allowed him. It was certain that there was a great discrepancy between him and them—a discrepancy both religious and political; if it was not so, the jury now before them would not be in that box. But notwithstanding all this, he relied upon their integrity and honesty. He would now pass to the consideration of the case itself. It was a curious prosecution—most curious. It comprehended a mass of matter, and embraced incidents scarcely covered by a period of nine or ten months. The memory fails to recall all those circumstances brought in evidence, and the judgment to distinguish what is important from what is not so. It was hard to say what the true question really was. Its entire strength seemed to consist in the cabalistic word "conspiracy." There was a legal definition given of it, which declared it to consist either in seeking what was unlawful, or what was lawful by unlawful means. These were like two hooks to the line; but as to the second branch he could not admit it. Conspiracy could not be spelt out by casual circumstances. It was admitted by the Crown in this case that there was no private agreement—no secrecy. It was a monstrous thing to call that a conspiracy which everybody knew—which was constituted by an advertisement in the public papers. The learned gentleman dwelt on this topic at some length, and then proceeded to say that the Attorney-general had disappointed public expectation in not being able to show any facts or incidents connected with this charge, which were not previously perfectly well known. What had become of all that was deep, dark, and dangerous, which it was insinuated would be brought to light on this trial? Where were all the "gorgons and chimeras dire?" Nothing of the kind was disclosed. The prosecution was, in short, a purely ministerial one, and the question raised was one between the present ministers, who were going to enlarge their franchises, and the whigs who promised much, and did very little. And now as to the evidence—what did it bring to light? There was every temptation to men to exaggerate, to falsify, or betray; but nothing was betrayed, for the simplest reason in the world, because there was nothing to betray. Would the jury believe that he (Mr O'Connell) had entered into a public conspiracy? He had refused the high office of master of the rolls—it was a question if he had not also refused that of chief baron—and would the jury believe that, after this, he could have the cruelty, the folly to enter into a conspiracy of this kind? They could not believe it. They must acquit him of it. The learned gentleman next alluded to the extensive combination which had been formed in England for the purpose of putting down the slave-trade—and asked why was not Wilberforce indicted for conspiracy? The venerable Clarkson was yet alive—why was he not indicted for conspiracy? He (Mr O'Connell) had also a share in that conspiracy, and yet no one presumed to interfere with him. Let the jury then beware of driving men into corners and the dark—and forcing them into real conspiracies—for that would be the result if they punished such proceedings as these. He asked, if parliamentary reform, or catholic emancipation, would ever have been carried, if it were not for great meetings, and the great agitation which was got up to carry them? On one day they had held their great simultaneous meetings, and yet the Attorney-general of the time never thought of turning them into evidence of a conspiracy. Such a proceeding was reserved for the Attorney-general of the present. The Anti-corn-law League in England held great meetings and collected money—so did the Anti-slavery Society—and they had not been prosecuted. And was a precedent for such a proceeding to be sent for to Ireland? In England they were safe in the integrity of the jury-box—they had an angel wing protecting them in that tribunal. Now, gentlemen, said Mr O'Connell, addressing himself to the jury, will you not protect us as an English jury protects them? I ask no more—I will be satisfied with no less. The learned gentleman next adverted to what he called the machinery of the evidence: it consisted of monster meetings, and newspaper publications. With respect to the meetings, he did not deny them, nor did he deny that they consisted of thousands, and tens of thousands of people; but what harm had they done? No person was injured or frightened by them. The people had been educated and trained by him to such peaceable conduct, and let the verdict on this occasion be what it might, the people would continue to be peaceable. When at length a proclamation was issued against their meeting, they immediately obeyed it. Such was the conspiracy—such the conspirators who were now under charge. Their meetings were legal, and perfectly suitable to the purpose they had in view. They had never been interfered with till in the last instance. He did not blame the Attorney-general for not prosecuting the persons who joined in them; he did not blame him, for he had no ground for doing so. The learned gentleman next commented on the character of the evidence, which consisted of publications in the newspapers; and protested against being made responsible for such productions. The Repeal Association had no newspaper organs, and gave its sanction to none of them. But besides this, if the newspapers published libels, why were not their proprietors made responsible for them? The learned gentleman next spoke to his own political text—"The man who commits a crime gives strength to the enemy." He declared himself the founder and the apostle of a new sect, whose object it was to effect political changes without violating any law, or shedding one drop of human blood. It was a principle of his religion, and if there was any one gentleman in the jury box of his persuasion, he would know it to be so. His sincerity on this point had never been impugned. He had proved it on many occasions by his denunciation of a dangerous combination among the workmen of Dublin—by his denunciation of the ribbonmen and all unlawful societies. The learned gentleman here traveled over a great many incidents of his political life, in proof of this position. In the course of this excursion he glanced at his opposition to the poor laws—the evidence of Mr Bond Hughes (which he highly praised)—his repudiation of American slavery—his refusal of co-operation with the republicans of France—and his respect for Henry the Fifth, or whoever might be the legitimate heir to the ancient hereditary monarchy of France—his protest against the chartists, and his having effectually prevented the Irish in England from joining them—and his constant allegiance to the sovereign. He had come to that time of life when the Queen could do nothing for him, but never had he spoken disrespectfully of her Majesty; if any such expression had been attributed to him, he denounced it as a falsehood. "My energies," said the learned gentleman, "have declined, but my ardent love of Ireland remains unabated. What remains of life I now devote to obtaining a repeal of the union. I maintain that every Irishman ought to be a repealer; and, before I sit down to-day, I expect to make many converts to my opinion." Here the learned gentleman commenced a repeal speech; gave a history of the union; and went through all the topics which have made the materials of his public speeches on this question for many months—nay, years, past. In conclusion, he said—I utterly deny that I have said or done anything to warrant the imputation that I am a conspirator. I reject the accusation with contempt. I acted in the open day, in the presence of the government, of the magistrates, and I said nothing that I would not expose to the universal world. I have struggled for the restoration of the parliament of my native country. Some have succeeded in the attempt—others have failed. If I succeed, or if I fail, it is a glorious struggle to make—it is glorious to strive that the first land upon the earth should possess that bounty and benefit which God and nature alike intended it should enjoy [applause].

The court then adjourned.

Mr O'Connell was loudly cheered while passing through the hall, and in the vicinity of the courts, upon his way home.

Twenty-first day—Tuesday, Feb. 7th.
On Tuesday the evidence for the defence was gone into and completed, the traversers having wisely resolved not to waste time by a repetition of facts already established. The opinions of Mr O'Connell against the union were proved to have been avowed in 1810, at public meetings where men distinguished for their conservative principles expressed full concurrence in them, and petitioned parliament for repeal. The practice of the society of Friends, and of a body of merchants, in submitting their differences to arbitration (in what is called the "Ousey Galley Club"), and thus virtually withdrawing causes from courts of law, was also proved; Mr O'Connell's frequent warnings against violence, and his causing an inflammatory motto to be pulled down from an arch at Tullamore, on occasion of a repeal meeting, were also given in evidence; and the case for the defendants closed with the reading of certain resolutions passed at the monster meetings, and which avowed loyalty to the Queen.

Twenty-second day—Wednesday, Feb. 7th.
On this day the Solicitor-general commenced his reply on behalf of the Crown. He commenced by observing that the momentous nature of the trial—the vast variety of topics introduced—the array of talent against which he appeared single-handed—the consequences of the verdict upon the law of the land, as well as upon the peace, the happiness, and, he might add, the tranquillity of their country—all these were calculated to appal a person of greater power than he possessed in the discharge of the task he had to perform. He observed that the eight gentlemen who had addressed them had introduced a matter not only different, but inconsistent; but in one respect they marvellously concurred—the absence of the least reference to the merits of the case. They had not, in fact, introduced one observation upon the real merits of the question, but had carefully evaded touching upon the question which the jury had been sworn to investigate—namely, the existence or non-existence of the conspiracy with which they had been charged. He denied the charge that government had seduced the people into crime, contending that every warning had been held out, and that the prosecution which had been ultimately resolved upon was one which they had every reason to expect, and could not have been brought forward with effect earlier than it was. They had been told, *usque ad manus*, that this was an attack on the legal and constitutional rights of the people—an attempt to put down free discussion. It was his thorough belief and conviction that a verdict which could have the effect of stopping the proceedings to which those unfortunate persons had become victims, would be the most favourable result which could happen for them. It would not abridge their rights, but lead to their amelioration in every respect. But it was then said the Crown were prosecuting for the purpose of putting an end to free discussion. Now, his reply to that was—they were not prosecuting

any person for holding any particular political or religious opinions; he avowed at once that every one of the traversers had the fullest right to express, in a constitutional and legal manner, his opinions upon any public subject whatever—nay, more, to use his best exertions, if he thought right, to propagate them, and to have them entertained, as far as possible, by all persons in the community, and to use all legitimate and proper means to accomplish them; but he denied the right of any person to attempt to bring about that object by means which were charged in the indictment. Their verdict in this case could not interfere with the liberty of the press, or the exercise of any constitutional right; nor were they prosecuting here for any public breach of the peace, though they might have supposed so, from a great deal of the remarks made upon evidence on the traversers' side. No; their charge was this—that Mr O'Connell, Dr Gray, Mr Duffy, Mr Barrett, and the other traversers, had entered into an illegal confederacy, for the purpose of effecting changes in the constitution of this country by other than constitutional means. The learned gentleman then went on to lay down the distinction between the legal and the popular definition of the word conspiracy, at some length; and after commenting at length on the doctrine of conspiracy, said the traversers might have spared themselves an infinity of trouble with respect to Mr O'Connell's admonitions for the preservation of peace and order; for it was the purpose and object of the meetings, and not the demeanour of those who attended them, that left them open to prosecution. He admitted that each of a series of meetings might, *per se*, be legal; but he pronounced the repeal meetings unlawful, because it appeared that they were held for the unlawful purpose of exhibiting to the legislature and people of England a demonstration of the physical force of the country, which it was expected would frighten and intimidate them into the concession of the measure which they (the repealers) desired to obtain. He proceeded at great length to defend the course adopted by the government with respect to the prosecution, and to defend the Crown officers with respect to the striking of the jury. He was willing to admit that Mr O'Connell had always entertained the opinions he expressed in 1810 and 1800; but Mr O'Connell and the other traversers were now prosecuted for endeavouring to carry out those principles in 1843, by unlawful means. The Crown was not called upon to prove the place, day, and hour, where and when the traversers concocted the conspiracy; all they had to prove (and this they had proved) was, that there was a community of purpose between those several traversers, each of them acting in his several department in the prosecution of the common object, and that could not take place unless a common object existed. The learned gentleman, having commented at great length on the speeches of the various counsel on the other side, proceeded to explain the counts of the indictment over again, showing how the evidence applied to each, and which of the traversers were affected by it. He read many of the newspaper articles and reports again—and having intimated, at four o'clock, that he was not yet nearly finished with that part of his case, the court adjourned to Thursday.

Shortly before the adjournment of the court, the Solicitor-general referred to the declaration of Sir Robert Peel, in the House of Commons, on the 9th of May last, respecting the repeal agitation, drawing the inference that the ministry might have to resort to a Coercion bill, in case of the failure of this prosecution. This was regarded as a sort of menace to the jury that, in the event of an acquittal, a coercive policy towards Ireland would be resorted to.

Twenty-second day—Thursday, Feb. 8th.

On this day an affidavit was made in court, that two of the persons whose names had been struck off the jury-panel were never members of the Repeal Association nor subscribers to its funds.

Soon after resuming his address on Thursday morning, the Solicitor-general, referring to certain allusions to civil war made by members of the late administration, recurred to the declaration of Sir Robert Peel, in May last, which he described as a threat for the purpose of putting down the repeal agitation. We extract the following from the report:

"Mr Sheil observed that the learned counsel not only yesterday went very far out of the evidence, but was now advertiring to topics which had not the slightest reference to it."

"The Solicitor-general said he was not aware that he had been alluding to any topic or to any fact which had not been proved in evidence."

"Mr Justice Crampton: You introduced something about the year 1834."

"Mr Sheil said he admitted that great indulgence had been extended to him by the Crown, nevertheless he could not avoid observing that the Solicitor-general had no right to advert to the motives of Sir R. Peel; and, as regarded yesterday, the learned counsel had no right to tell the jury that, unless there was a verdict for the Crown, coercion would be introduced."

"Judge Crampton observed that allusion should only be made to that which had been given in evidence."

"The Solicitor-general: Nothing was further from my intention than to hold out to the jury a threat that if they did not find a verdict for the Crown it would be necessary to resort to any additional powers. I really do not think I stated that which the learned counsel has imputed to me. If I did, gentlemen of the jury, I beg leave to retract it."

"The Chief Justice: I must say that I did not understand you to say that which you are told you did say."

"Justice Perrin: I certainly think you said something to the effect."

"The Solicitor-general: It is very possible I did make some such observation as the learned counsel has mentioned. I am sure my learned friend's recollection is better than mine."

"Mr Sheil: I did not hear the words, but I read the report."

"Mr Justice Crampton: There has been a great deal of latitude on both sides."

The Solicitor-general went into an explanation, thus concluding:—

"The question between us and Mr O'Connell is this, whether what has taken place is reconcilable in the common law of this country. This is the only question which I think I am entitled to raise, and a question to which I have been all along anxious to confine myself. It is not always very easy for a counsel to guard himself from departing from due limits. I consider there is a latitude given to traversers or prisoners which it would be improper to allow the parties prosecuting for the Crown, and I shall endeavour to abstain from the use of any language that—

"Judge Crampton: I really think you are taking a great deal of trouble to excuse yourself from a charge which has not been made against you. Mr Sheil objected to reading to the jury, as if it had been given in evidence that which really had not been submitted. Undoubtedly you were in error."

"Mr Sheil: The learned counsel certainly gave a very strong hint that there would be coercion if there was not a conviction."

This very curious episode over—the Solicitor-general resumed his address to the jury, and went in detail through the evidence respecting various repeal meetings. The learned gentleman had not concluded his address at the rising of the court.

Twenty-third day—Friday, Feb. 9th.

At ten o'clock on Friday morning, the Solicitor-general resumed his address to the jury, in reply to the traversers' counsel. He dwelt chiefly on the facts put forward by the Attorney-general. The following is one of the most powerful portions of his speech:—

There was no substantive evidence on the part of the traversers. Not a single petition was presented to the House of Commons from the commencement of last session to its close. Yet still it was necessary that they should have some pretext for meeting—that pretext was to petition, and it was one most delusive and fallacious. I say, therefore, gentlemen of the jury, that the absence of a single petition, during the whole of the last session, speaks trumpet-tongued against the allegation that those meetings were held for the purpose of taking the sense of parliament as to the propriety of repealing the union. The principal traverser himself, it appears, did not even go to parliament to present any petition, or attempt to obtain repeal in a constitutional way. It does not appear that one of the 250,000 who assembled at Mullaghmast signed any petition for that purpose. Mr O'Connell has made a long statement to you, and I protest I never heard in my life a statement so little applicable to the charge which he was called upon to answer. Mr Henn properly observed, that you were not impaneled there to try whether the repeal of the union would or would not be a benefit to the country; but from the beginning to the end of Mr O'Connell's address, that appeared to be the question to which he directed your attention. A great mass of evidence has been brought in array against Mr O'Connell, respecting the language he had used on various occasions; and was it not expected by you that he would give either a denial or explanation of the language he had used? Nay more, he has declared that his proceedings were perfectly legal, but did he state to you, or to their lordships any one peaceful or constitutional mode in which he proposed that the union should be repealed? Has he attempted to justify his concoction of a new constitution for this country? He has laid down a plan for ascertaining the number of commoners that are to sit in the House of Commons, and named the places that are to return members, also rules to govern the elective franchise; has he attempted to vindicate that? The legality of his proceedings he has over and over again asserted, but he has not attempted to show that those legal, peaceful, and constitutional means of which he speaks have any existence. What does this prove but that this agitation was carried on, not to effect the repeal by any such means, but by coercion, intimidation, and demonstration of large bodies of persons—by the various means specified in this indictment? for no man knew better than Mr O'Connell that he could not achieve the repeal of the union in a legal or constitutional way. He also claims merit for having assisted in preserving the peace, and not being actuated by religious animosity. If so, he is entitled to credit for it, and I should be far from detracting from his merit in those particulars. But on what ground, I ask you, put forward by Mr O'Connell himself, could you say he was innocent of the present charge? In one part of his address he said he wished for an opportunity of explaining his violent speeches. By this he would appear to admit that there were passages in his speeches which required explanation. An opportunity has been given him in this court, and he has not availed himself of it. The case on the part of the crown, gentlemen, is left wholly unrebutted by any evidence on the part of the traversers. Gentlemen, I think you will find, when you compare the several portions of this evidence together, that there did exist, beyond all doubt, a plan between the traversers, or some of them (it is for you to say how many), by reiterated assertions as to the manner in which this country is governed by the imperial parliament, to create in the minds of the people of this country what we call dissatisfaction—dissatisfaction and discontent against the government and constitution of the realm as by law established. I think you will also find from the uniform use of the word "Saxon," from holding them up in the light of "tyrants," "oppressors," and "strangers," and from raking up the ashes of forgotten feuds, massacres, and victories, and holding meetings on spots remarkable either for the occurrence of memorable transactions, or battles in which the Irish were arrayed against the English, and thus exciting the naturally high feelings of the unfortunate people of this country. By all these various means you will find there existed a design to inflame their minds against the people of England.

After expressing his own conviction that all the traversers had agreed and conspired to effect the illegal purposes charged against them, the Solicitor-general concluded by calling on the jury for a verdict such as the uncontradicted and unexplained evidence demanded at their hands.

After a short adjournment, during which the judges were absent about a quarter of an hour, the Chief Justice proceeded to charge the jury. He

commenced by stating that there was a perfect coincidence of opinion between himself and his brethren as to the subject matter to be laid before them; but he had proceeded for a very brief space, when Mr Justice Perrin began to manifest very unequivocal symptoms of dissent. He then proceeded to mention the particulars of the alleged conspiracy, which it may be useful here to repeat:—

The first count of the indictment charged them with an endeavour to excite among the Queen's subjects a hatred and unlawful opposition to the government and the constitution; secondly, to stir up jealousy among the Queen's subjects, and to excite ill-will among various classes of her Majesty's subjects, especially those in Ireland against those in England; thirdly, to excite disaffection in the army; fourthly, collecting together large assemblies in order to obtain changes in the law and constitution by intimidation and an exhibition of physical force; and lastly, to bring the courts of justice, established by law, into disrepute. Now, gentlemen, it is a conceded fact that the indictment on which the traversers are brought to trial consists only of an offence of one nature—that is to say, it may have different branches which, in this case, it has; yet still the whole is an indictment for a conspiracy, and for nothing else. There is no indictment against any of the traversers for sedition—nor for any other separate and distinct breach of the law. They are all, one and all, indicted for the crime of conspiracy; they cannot be convicted, unless it be proved to your satisfaction that they have been acting on the illegal charge set forth against them, in concert with some other persons and individuals—unless they have acted in this concert, they are not guilty of conspiracy, though they may of a numerous class of other offences.

The question as to what was and what was not conspiracy then engaged the attention of the Chief Justice—

For a conviction of conspiracy the law requires that the jury should be satisfied that there was a consent, either for the purpose of doing an illegal act, or doing, or causing to be done, an act legal in itself, but to be brought about by illegal means. Gentlemen, I think that to be the definition of conspiracy according to law, and which I am bound to put before you. Now, gentlemen, you see in that definition I do not include as a component part of the crime of conspiracy either the existence of treachery, as it was insisted upon by Mr Fitzgibbon on the first day of his address, nor of secrecy, which was insisted on by him on the second day that he addressed you, and which was afterwards reiterated and repeated by Mr O'Connell, one of the traversers, who addressed you in his own defence, which he had a perfect right to do, when he stated his case to you. Gentlemen, in my opinion, and in the opinion of this court, it is a mistake in law to say that to establish conspiracy it is necessary for the Crown to prove the existence of either treachery or secrecy in order to complete the charge. I do not say it is contrary to it. It very often happens that both treachery and secrecy concur in the existence of various conspiracies; they are cognate to such an offence. But I deny altogether that it is the law of this country that the existence of either one or the other ingredient should be proved in order to constitute the crime of conspiracy. Secrecy is very often involved in it; but, in my opinion, it is not a necessary ingredient. I say there are crimes like the present—by saying that I do not mean to anticipate—no, God forbid! But if secrecy were a necessary ingredient in the crime of conspiracy, the present charge might have been carried on, and the parties could not have been stopped in their progress. As a necessary ingredient in the charge of conspiracy there should be the existence of secrecy to the satisfaction of the jury.

The opinion of Lord Denman and other high legal authorities was cited in support of this definition. Having stated what the traversers were accused of, the learned judge proceeded to lay down a few rules with regard to conspiracy for the guidance of the jury. One of his *dicta* on this topic was as follows:—

Suppose the parties went unarmed to those great meetings, and conducted themselves with great propriety and regularity, and that no breach of the peace, or even a tendency to a breach of the peace, was committed—all these facts might concur towards the establishment of the innocence of the meeting, and yet that very meeting might be illegal, and every party who went to it, and attended at it, might be made answerable. Suppose that the person who caused these multitudes to assemble did it in the open day, where all the world could see and hear him, and that his object was to overawe the legislature, who were likely to have to consider certain political subjects on which he had his own views, and that he wished to prevent the legislature and the government of the country from forming a free and deliberate judgment and opinion upon the subject, that was unquestionably an illegal object both in him and all who concurred and agreed with him in procuring the means to make such a demonstration.

After referring to the case of Mr Tierney, who having only attended the meetings subsequent to the 2nd of October, and in whose favour there was that qualification, he proceeded to refer to the terms of the coronation oath, which he contended prohibited her Majesty from entertaining any proposition for the repeal of the union, apart from or independent of the legislature. The law permitted nobody, except the lawful parliament of the country, as settled by Queen, Lords, and Commons, at the period of the union, and therefore it was incompetent to Mr O'Connell, or any other person, to attempt an alteration of the law by illegitimate or violent means. The traversers held with Mr O'Connell that the act of union is void; but if so, where was the use, he asked, of seeking the repeal of such an act? A great many years ago Mr O'Connell appeared to entertain strong opinions against the act of union, and he had given evidence that he attended a meeting in Dublin in opposition to the repeal of the union. That meeting, however, was a meeting regularly constituted; not by irresponsible authority, but by the High Sheriff of the city of Dublin, at which every freeman and freeholder had a right to attend. Mr O'Connell had a right to express the sentiments he did at that meeting; but the present was the first time he had heard of a man justifying his acts in 1844 by what he did thirty years ago. After some

further observations from his lordship, the court adjourned until the following morning.

Twenty-fourth day—Saturday, February 10.

The court sat this morning punctually at ten, when the Lord Chief Justice, after apologising for what he had said on the previous day in reference to Mr Fitz-gibbon's interpretation of the law of conspiracy, proceeded with his address to the jury. He commenced by referring to the large sums of money remitted to the funds of the Association from England, Scotland, Ireland, and various parts of America. The Association, thus provided with funds, numbers, and organisation, he described as the instrument by which Mr O'Connell and the other traversers intended to work out their ulterior object; namely, the repeal of the union. That in itself was a legal and legitimate object, but in pursuing it the traversers had no right to resort to intimidation, or by demonstrations of physical force compel the legislature to concede their demands. He then referred to "the plan for renewed action of the Irish parliament," which he described as a plan for the entire abolition of the British constitution as by law established; for he contended that her Majesty at the period of the union had ceased to be the Queen of Ireland, that her rights as such had been swallowed up and merged in the imperial legislature, and that any attempt on the part of her Majesty to carry the proposed plan into operation would be a violation of the coronation oath. There was a mode by which the union could be repealed or modified, and that was by a solemn act of the imperial parliament, sanctioned and adopted by the crown; but the document before him contained nothing in the shape of a petition; it was, in point of fact, a demand, an authoritative demand, on the part of the people of Ireland to repeal an act of parliament without any interposition of the legislature. He next directed the attention to the monster meetings, at which large numbers of persons, accompanied by banners and bands of music, attended. He afterwards selected portions of the most violent speeches delivered by Mr O'Connell and others of the traversers—including Mr O'Connell's attack on Lord Beaumont at Mullingar—all of which, he contended, were calculated to excite ill-will, dissension, and discontent among her Majesty's subjects. He noticed the Clifden meeting, at which Mr O'Connell spoke of his intention of establishing arbitration courts, and the intended meeting of 300 gentlemen in Dublin, to arrange the terms of repeal. The former he describes as a gross and unwarrantable assumption of the royal prerogative, and the latter as a new edition of the story of Aladdin's miraculous lamp, which conferred on the possessor everything he desired. He read extracts from Mr O'Connell's speech at the dinner after the Mullaghmast meeting, which contained, he said, the self-same sentiments, and inculcated the self-same doctrines, as a paper, circulated at the meeting, entitled "the Mullaghmast Massacre." What object, he asked, had Mr O'Connell, or those who acted with him, in promulgating such sentiments, unless to disseminate ill-will and discontent among her Majesty's subjects? He then proceeded to inquire into the real objects and intent of those meetings—and especially that of Mullaghmast—which he thought went the full length of showing concert and agreement between the traversers, and, therefore, establishing the charge of conspiracy. He then recapitulated the meetings which some of the traversers attended, and the publications with which others were connected, and from these he drew the conclusion that all were influenced by the same motives, and labouring for the attainment of the same objects, and through the instrumentality of the same means; and, therefore, that all were more or less guilty of the charges preferred against them in the indictment. The learned judge concluded in the following terms:

A great deal has been addressed to you which I don't at all intend to recapitulate. You have been pressed by arguments in appeal to your feelings—I would say in appeal sometimes to your apprehensions. You have been addressed by gentlemen of the greatest ability, I believe in greater numbers than ever persons accused of crime have yet had an opportunity of being heard in their behalf. Every topic that could be suggested by ingenuity and reasoning has been discussed—nothing has been omitted. But it has been shown to you that there were other grounds besides the evidence which has been laid before you, which you might properly take into your consideration in arriving at your verdict. In answer to that I have only to state to you that, by the law, you are to hold yourselves as perfectly indifferent parties—indifferent to every consideration except the evidence laid before you as jurors; and remember the oath you have taken is to give a true verdict, according to the evidence; that is your oath. To enable you to do that, I must say you have paid the most marked attention; indeed, I may say, I never saw a jury who, during a long and painful trial, extending over more than three weeks, have paid such unceasing and undeviating attention to the case and the evidence before them as you have. In drawing your conclusions and finding your verdict, you will attend to the evidence before you, and let it be conformable to the dictates of your reason and of your consciences; and I do trust that the Lord, who rules over all, will enlighten your direction.

The learned Chief Justice, during his eleven hours' charge, never, even by chance, directed the attention of the jury to the evidence for the traversers; whatever told against them was put in the strongest and most revolting light, but the mitigating circumstances were carefully, and, as it would appear, studiously kept in the background; in short, like the Irishman's reciprocity, it was all on one side.

The jury then retired, at half-past five, to consider their verdict, and a short adjournment took place. At half-past seven, Mr Justice Crampton returned to the court, but finding that the jury were still out, stated that he would return at a quarter to nine. During the interval, the court was crowded to suffo-

cation, the Round hall was filled, and the quay, outside the Four Courts, was packed by a dense multitude of the Dublin populace. On Mr Justice Crampton's return at the appointed hour, intimation was given that the jury were not "quite ready;" so that another long pause ensued, until ten minutes to eleven, relieved only by the noise and laughing that prevailed in court. Shortly after Mr Crampton's return, the jury entered the court amidst the profoundest silence. The following discussion then took place:

The Foreman (addressing the Court): Are we to give our verdict upon each count of the indictment, my lord?

Mr Justice Crampton: Yes, gentlemen.

The Foreman: And are we obliged to give a verdict on every count, whether agreed or not agreed?

Mr Justice Crampton: Certainly.

Mr Hatchell, Queen's counsel: Not if they are not agreed on every count, my lord. They can't, if they are not agreed.

Mr Justice Crampton: Pray understand me, gentlemen. If you are agreed upon each count, or upon all the counts, you have only to say guilty or not guilty, according to your verdict. If you agree upon some and not upon others, you will state those upon which you are agreed, and also the names of the traversers with respect to whom you have agreed.

The Foreman: And take no notice of the others?

Mr Henn: There must be a finding on the others.

Mr Justice Crampton: Certainly.

The jury then withdrew, and

His lordship, after a pause of a few minutes, said—I am disposed to think that if the jury were agreed on certain counts, and not upon others, I should be at liberty to receive their verdict so stated.

Mr Moore: I think we had better wait, my lord.

Mr Justice Crampton: Just so. I merely threw that out for your consideration in the meantime.

Another anxious and more solemn interval elapsed till twenty-five minutes past eleven o'clock, when the jury entered their box amidst the most profound stillness, the foreman holding the issue paper in his hand, which was handed down to the Clerk of the Crown, who then proceeded to call over their names and those of the traversers. Four of them—Mr O'Connell, Mr J. O'Connell, Mr Tierney, and Mr Duffy—were absent, and they were, at the desire of the Attorney-general, called upon their recognisances.

The Clerk of the Crown then proceeded to call on the jury for their verdict. He said: Gentlemen, have you all agreed upon your verdict?

The Foreman: Yes [great sensation in the court].

The Clerk of the Crown (reading the issue paper): Gentlemen, you say nothing on the 1st or 2d count. On the 3d you say, Daniel O'Connell, R. Barrett, and C. G. Duffy are guilty.

Mr Justice Crampton:—If there be no finding on the 1st or 2d counts, the verdict is imperfect.

The Foreman.—We consider that they were too comprehensive, my lord, as the 1st included all the others.

The Crown Clerk:—On the 4th count you say D. O'Connell, J. O'Connell, T. M. Ray, J. Gray, T. Steele, C. G. Duffy, and R. Barrett, are guilty. On the 5th you say D. O'Connell, T. M. Ray, T. Steele, C. G. Duffy, and the Rev. T. Tierney, are guilty. On the 6th there is no finding. On the 7th, all but Mr Tierney guilty. There is no finding on the 8th or 9th counts. On the 10th you have found D. O'Connell, J. O'Connell, T. M. Ray, J. Gray, T. Steele, C. G. Duffy, and R. Barrett, are guilty. On the 11th there is no finding, but only the foreman's signature.

Mr Justice Crampton:—This verdict is imperfect, as I take it, gentlemen, and you must have it returned to you. You have named certain traversers as guilty in some counts, not naming the others; now, you ought to say "Not guilty" to those whose names you have omitted. With respect to those counts on which you have made no finding, you should state whether you are agreed or not, or whether you think the traversers or any of them guilty or not guilty, stating the names in each case respectively. With respect to those whom you have not named, you must state that you find the traversers not guilty, if it be your intention so to find, or if your meaning in passing them by is that you are not agreed you must so state it. Now, in the 1st count, you should state on how much of it you find the traversers or any of them guilty or not guilty, naming each on both findings.

Further explanations between the counsel and Mr Justice Crampton then took place, in the course of which Mr Floyd, a juror, said they were all agreed, and that the only difference of opinion was as to the wording of the finding. It was now close upon twelve o'clock, and Mr Justice Crampton expressed a strong desire to receive the verdict that night, provided it was legal. Neither the Attorney-general nor the counsel for the traversers would undertake to be responsible for the legality of the act, and after a considerable discussion, the court was adjourned to Monday morning; the jury being delivered into the custody of the two bailiffs, under whose care they were conveyed to their room for the night. As they left the box they were greeted with a loud laugh of derision from the galleries, which Mr Justice Crampton strongly condemned. His lordship then retired, and on his exit from the court was followed by several hundreds of the mob, who groaned and hissed him until driven back by the police.

Saturday night and Sunday passed over in Dublin, without any attempt at disturbance. A great display of military force was made, but with the exception of an orderly crowd congregated around the hall of Four Courts, the city was almost as tranquil as usual.

The following is the FINAL VERDICT of the jury, delivered on Monday:—

FIRST AND SECOND COUNTS.

"Guilty—D. O'Connell, R. Barrett, and C. G. Duffy, omitting the words 'unlawfully and seditiously,' before the words 'to meet and assemble.'

"Not guilty as to the words omitted."

"Guilty—J. O'Connell, T. Steele, T. M. Ray, and J. Gray, omitting the words 'unlawfully and seditiously,' before the words 'to meet and assemble,' and omitting the words 'and to excite discontent and disaffection amongst divers of her Majesty's subjects serving in the army.'

"Not guilty as to the words omitted."

"Guilty—Rev. Thomas Tierney, from the commencement, and including the words, 'especially in England,' and not guilty of the remainder of the first and second counts."

THIRD COUNT.

"Guilty—D. O'Connell, R. Barrett, and C. G. Duffy.

"Guilty—J. O'Connell, T. Steele, T. M. Ray, and J. Gray, omitting the words 'and to excite discontent and disaffection amongst divers of her Majesty's subjects serving in the army.'

"Not guilty as to the words omitted."

"Guilty—The Rev. T. Tierney, from the commencement so far as, and including, the words 'especially in England.'

"Not guilty of the remainder of this count."

FOURTH COUNT.

"Guilty—D. O'Connell, J. O'Connell, J. M. Ray, J. Gray, T. Steele, C. G. Duffy, and R. Barrett.

"Guilty—Rev. Mr. Tierney from the commencement so far as, and including, the words, 'especially in England.'

FIFTH COUNT.

"Guilty—D. O'Connell, J. O'Connell, T. Steele, T. M. Ray, C. G. Duffy, J. Gray, R. Barrett.

"Not guilty—Rev. Mr Tierney."

The same verdict was returned on the remaining five counts.

The verdict having been recorded—

The Chief Justice thanked the jury for the patient attention they had bestowed for nearly a month upon this unprecedented case, admitted the loss and injury it must have been to them, regretted that the court did not possess the power of granting them compensation (which the foreman in delivering his verdict applied for), and dismissed them. Mr Moore, on the part of the traversers, demanded a copy of the verdict. The Chief Justice directed that it should be furnished, and the clerk of the Crown immediately adjourned the court to the first day of next term, when it will be in the power of the Crown to call for judgment upon the traversers.

As to future proceedings against the traversers, all is at present uncertainty. We extract one or two articles of gossip from the *Chronicle's* correspondence:—

"In case judgment should be pronounced against Mr O'Connell and the other traversers, it is stated that Mr Smith O'Brien, M.P., is to take a leading part in the business of the association."

"It is stated that Mr O'Connell intends to start for London at once, to be in his place in the House of Commons on Tuesday, when Lord John Russell's motion is to come on."

"Rumours prevailed to-day that the government are about to issue a proclamation against the meetings of the Repeal Association; but these reports appear to be nothing more than mere surmise."

"It is stated that judgment cannot possibly be pronounced to-morrow against the traversers in the state prosecutions, inasmuch as a four-day rule must be served upon them, noticing them to appear for sentence. If that rule were obtained to-morrow, Friday next would be the day for judgment. With respect to the course to be adopted by the Crown on this point, nothing certain can be known until to-morrow."

COUNTY OF TIPPERARY ELECTION.—On Friday, Mr Nicholas Maher was returned for the representation of the northern division of this county without opposition; Mr P. Barker, the conservative, having resigned.

LETTER FROM MR O'CONNELL.—The "Liberator" has addressed a letter to the catholic prelates of Ireland, on the subject of the state trials and verdict, of which the following is the principal paragraph:—"It is to prevent any irritation springing from this violation of the religious feelings of the people of Ireland, that I, with profound humility, intimate to your lordships the propriety of suggesting to the clergy of every parish—and your suggestion will, of course, be acted upon zealously and universally—to take care that neither vindictive nor angry feeling shall be exhibited by their flocks, as a consequence of this wrong; to stifle every expression of sorrow and resentment in the recollection that prudence as well as duty, personal safety as well as religion, imperatively demand that every district of Ireland should persevere in maintaining the most perfect order and imperturbable tranquillity."

SCOTLAND.

KILMARNOCK BURGHS.—We understand the electors of Kilmarnock will soon be called on to exercise their franchise in the election of a member of parliament, owing to the continued indisposition of Mr Johnston, and that Mr Robertson, of London, formerly the editor of the *Westminster Review*, an able advocate of free trade, and the opponent of the Duke of Sutherland in the correspondence lately carried on in regard to Free church sites, will become a candidate for the honour.—*Ayr Advertiser.* [The *Glasgow Saturday Post* mentions the Hon. E. Bouvier son of Earl Radnor, as a probable candidate.]

SIR W. SCOTT'S MONUMENT AT EDINBURGH.—The fund for carrying out this object having fallen short, a meeting was held in New Music hall, Edinburgh, on Monday evening, the 5th inst., to raise further subscriptions. The Lord Provost took the chair; and among the company were the Marquis of Bredalbane and a large number of the gentry of the northern metropolis. Subscriptions to the amount of £500 were announced. £3,000 is the additional sum required. The height of the monument is to be 182 feet.

Miscellaneous.

Lord Ellenborough's palanquin is impelled from behind, instead of borne; a frank confession that the Governor-general is past all bearing.

We have authority for stating that it is the immediate intention of the Duke of Richmond; Viscount Ingestre, M.P.; W. Miles, Esq., M.P.; Philip Pusey, Esq., M.P.; and others, to form a Metropolitan Society for the Protection of British Agriculture.—*Standard*.

Mr R. Cobden is now a burgess of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, Kirkcaldy, Montrose, and Cupar Fife.

A correspondent of the *Chronicle* thus aptly translates the subjoined passage from the "Ars Poetica" of Horace:—

"Ille dapes laudet mensa brevis, ille salubrem

"Justitiam, legesque, et apertis otio portis;"

"Let it praise a frugal table, the healthful administration of justice, order, and ease with free trade."

Colonel Wyndham, M.P. for Sussex, has withdrawn his name from the Royal Agricultural Society in consequence of the President's declaration against the corn-laws.

The Honourable J. E. Elliot, brother to Earl Minto, and paternal uncle to Lady John Russell, has transmitted to the treasurer of the Anti-corn-law Association at Hawick the sum of £10, in aid of the League fund.

In Paris they have had rough weather, as well as in London; snow and frost marked the greater part of last week, and a fall of snow on Friday is said to have been the heaviest and most continuous that has occurred in Paris for thirty years.

FIRE IN LONDON.—IMPORTANT EXPERIMENTS.—A great many proposals have lately been urged upon government, with the view of establishing in London and all the large towns throughout the provinces, a system for the more speedy extinction of fires, viz. by attaching hose or leather pipes, with branches, to the plugs or mains laid down in the streets, so that the water might be thrown to a sufficient altitude by its own pressure, without the aid of fire-engines. An experiment, a few days since, was made by Mr Quick, the engineer of the Southwark Water Company, in order to ascertain how far it could be made applicable. The company not having the necessary apparatus to make the trial, the assistance of the Fire Brigade was granted to carry out the experiment, Mr Braidwood, the superintendent of the force, being present on the occasion, the particulars of which will be found to be highly important. The report, which is extremely voluminous, states that it took place on the morning of Thursday last, between the hours of 4 and 9 o'clock, Mr Quick selecting Old Gravel lane, Union street, and Tooley street, as the most favourable spots to carry on the operations. During the whole period, the pressure of water at the company's works at Battersea was kept at 130 feet, and every service pipe or outlet was kept shut, so that the trial should be fairly made. The first experiment took place in Union street, by having lengths of riveted leather hose (two inches and a half in diameter and 40 feet long) attached to six standcocks, placed into plugs, all situated within the space of about 700 yards. The water was conveyed from the head at Battersea, through 5,300 yards of iron piping, consisting of 4,250 yards of 20-inch main, 550 yards of 15-inch main, and 500 yards of 9-inch main. On one standcock being opened, the jet of water thrown from the copper branch (with 4-inch hose pipe on) reached an elevation of 50 feet, and the delivery was at the rate of 100 gallons per minute. The next object sought was to ascertain the quantity of water that could be obtained from the plug. The branch pipe for this purpose was taken off, but the length of hose remained on. The delivery was then found to be 260 gallons per minute, showing that nearly two-thirds of the water was lost by confining it to a small jet. Had the standcock and hose been taken away, there would have been quite sufficient water to supply three fire-engines, each delivery being equal to the discharge from the first standcock. Another was then opened, and the jet from the former was reduced to 45 feet elevation. Other two were added, and the jet of the first was then 40 feet; and on three being opened, the jet from the first rose to 35 feet. The fourth was opened, and the jet of the first decreased to 30 feet. The fifth was then brought into play (viz. six in all), and the jet from the first only measured 27 feet, fully showing that there was a regular gradation in the height of the jets, according to the number opened. The next trial was made in Tooley street, the standcocks being used as in the former case. Some slight difference was observed in the elevation to which the jets were thrown, the first gaining 60 feet; and when the whole were opened, the height was reduced to 40 feet, the delivery of water being at the rate of 70 gallons per minute. Another trial was then made in a street leading into Tooley street, where there was only a service-pipe laid down, called a 5-inch main. The first standcock threw a jet of 40 feet, and on the others being opened, the one furthest from the first started, only emitted a jet of 24 feet, and a delivery of 58 gallons.

A chair, which had been in Mr O'Connell's family for three hundred years, was received a few days since at Washington, as a present from the great agitator to Mr Robert Tyler. The president of the United States was the first person to sit in it.—*Philadelphia Letter*.

The state apartments at Windsor Castle, which have been commanded to be closed "until further orders," will not, it is expected, be again opened to the public until after the funeral of Prince Albert's father shall have taken place.

Several workmen have been selected from the Woolwich dock-yard, to proceed to the Island of Ascension, for the purpose of establishing a small steam factory, for the repairs of the machinery of the steam-vessels of the royal navy employed upon the African station.

LOW RAILWAY FARES MOST PRODUCTIVE.—On new year's day, 1843, with a sixpenny fare, the Greenock and Glasgow railway pocketed £77 from holiday passengers. On new year's day, 1844, with a shilling fare, they received £45.

Literature.

Reflections after Reading: or, Sketches, Biographical, Ecclesiastical, and Historical. By JOHN COCKIN. Ward and Co. pp. 458.

We have heard that the author of this volume bears, in his native county, the title of "The walking library," a cognomen which the perusal of his production will be far from discrediting. He is evidently a large reader, and, if our information be not at fault, one of the best companions possible in a bookseller's shop, being himself a *catalogue raisonné* of books and authors. It is well when such men are willing to impart as well as to receive; and in a day when the number of those who are versed in dissenting ecclesiasticals is not large, and is fast diminishing, it is especially well when they condescend to leave behind them a few "bricks of their Babel."

The contents of this volume are somewhat miscellaneous, and we can give our readers no notion of the general principle which has dictated their selection. The first part consists of biographical sketches of Sir M. Hale, Heywood, Watts, Doddridge, Dr Dodd, Burns, and Bishop Watson. Why some of these are here, and others, which deserve a place better, are not, we cannot explain; nor does the author attempt to satisfy us. The next list, entitled "Ecclesiastical Sketches," is more nearly complete. "Milner's History of the Church;" "The French Protestants;" "John Knox and the Reformation;" "Ebenezer Erskine and the Secession;" William Penn and the early Quakers;" "Baxter and the Nonconformists;" "Dr Bogue and the London Missionary Society," want only "Whitfield, Wesley, and the Methodists" to make them a symmetrical phalanx. The third part consists of "Historical Sketches," and refers to the time of the Commonwealth; "Lord William Russell;" "Sacheverel and his trial;" "Sir Robert Walpole;" "Lord Bolingbroke;" "Washington;" "Buonaparte;" "Spain, and the causes of her declension." The volume concludes by two papers "on the spread of the gospel at home," and "on nonconformity to ecclesiastical establishments."

Miscellaneous as the volume is, it is one of great interest. We are not aware of any book approaching in size, nor even of any work at all, which gives a collective view of the subjects here brought together. It is truly refreshing to turn from this age of little men to some of those whose names, written already in imperishable brass, have been presented anew to us by the present author. It will augur ill indeed for our rising youth if these shall ever cease to be household words, even when, as we hope, dissent shall have become an archaism, and nonconformity (the *Nonconformist* not opposing) the extinct remnant of a former world.

In many of these articles the various reading of the author has furnished appositely things which greatly illustrate each other, and put his subjects into new lights; and, although original composition is not affected, some of its best results are secured. The style of the work is clear and forcible, somewhat Johnsonian in its texture, but therefore the more fresh to us used to the modern school—always perspicuous, sometimes sententious—yet, when the truisms provoke a smile, the weighty observations which follow compel respectful gravity.

If we were to particularise any parts of the first division which appear to us to have been written with greater zest than others, we should point to the sketches of Heywood, Watts, and Doddridge. Burns is a subject which, so far as it is morally treated, is of great excellence; but whether "flights of sublimity" be characteristic of his productions is a matter on which we are not yet prepared to take the author's affirmative. "Milner's History" (in the second part) is well and impartially characterised, at least according to our dissenting judgment. The article on "The French Protestants" is admirable. Agreeing as we do in the major part of the character given of Knox, we think Mr Cockin, like Mr M'Crie, too much of an apologist. The article on "The Secession" is, from circumstances, peculiarly interesting; though the author stops far short of

all reference to the modern free church. Perhaps no paper in the book is more elaborated than that on the "Nonconformists and Baxter;" and from it we shall select our pattern:—

"On a survey of the history of the nonconformists, from the restoration to the revolution, the most prominent quality in their character is firmness of principle. Whatever may be thought of the articles of their creed or of the sentiments of their minds, there can be but one opinion as to the firmness with which they adhered to them. This decision of principle, and this triumph of principle over every selfish motive, distinguish these men from all others with whom they may be compared. The history of religion proves, with abundant and mournful evidence, that ministers have been prone to move backward and forward, to shift with the wind, to move with the tide, and to resemble the vicar of Bray more than the apostle of the Gentiles. At the era of the reformation in England, they changed from their original popery to be half protestants under Henry VIII., whole protestants under Edward VI., papists again under Mary, and protestants again under Elisabeth. These four changes in their faith, and five professions in their sentiments, occurred in twenty-eight years. The same tergiversation and want of principle appeared in the times which we have now under consideration. In the reign of Charles I., they were *jures divino* prelatists; took the presbyterian covenant under the long parliament; submitted to the independent engagement; and assented and consented to all required by the act of uniformity. Pliable consciences never do any harm to the worldly interests of their possessors; nor does the conduct resulting from them ever do any credit to the cause of religion. * * * 'A glorious minority' (of the Anglican church) 'displayed a fidelity to conscience, a noble disinterestedness of spirit, and an heroic firmness of integrity, which are unparalleled in so great a number; and which are an honour to the dissenting cause and to Christianity itself.' "—pp. 244, 254.

"In the closet he (Baxter) was an incessant writer, and on the stage of public affairs he was a conspicuous actor; often exerting himself, and his exertions always prompted by honest motives, and aimed at the public good; but not always directed by wisdom and sound discretion. When the contest between Charles I. and his parliament broke out into civil war, he took the side of the latter, because he thought that subjects should adhere to the party which most secured the welfare of the nation, and because he observed that the cavaliers were hated by the people, for their incredible profaneness and unmerciful plunderings. As an adherent to the popular cause he engaged himself as chaplain to Col. Whalley's regiment; and he says, in his *Holy Commonwealth*, that if the King had conquered the parliament, the nation had lost all security for their liberties, and had been at his mercy; and yet he told Cromwell that he took the ancient monarchy to be a blessing, and asked him how England had ever forfeited that blessing. Publicly and privately he spoke against Cromwell and his associates, as usurpers and rebels; and yet he gives a glowing description of the happy freedom and manifold blessings which the people enjoyed under their government. * * * He avowed himself a nonconformist, and refused the offer of the bishopric of Hereford; but afterwards begged the curacy of Kidderminster, for which, he tells us, some of his acquaintances laughed at him. He pleaded for peace, and expressed himself frequently and strongly on the mischief of disputes and controversies; and yet he was noted for disputatious pertinacity, and was oftener engaged in controversies, and published more controversial works, than most of his contemporaries. No other man has fixed the standard of ministerial qualification so high as he has done, and yet, when he resided at Acton, he constantly heard the curate of the place, though he was a weak young man, who spent most of his time in alehouses, and was commonly reputed a swearer and a railed. * * * But this is viewing Baxter in his most unfavourable aspect. Contemplated in another phasis, he shines with great lustre. What was said of the nonconformists in general, may be said of him in particular with as much propriety as of any of them:—his grand excellence was his piety."—pp. 266, 258.

Then follows a glowing eulogium of the best parts of his character—not philosophically analysed, it is true, but well arranged and illustrated.

But we have exhausted our limits. If any of our readers shall be tempted by these remarks to purchase a volume which exhibits many of the most splendid lights of our church, we believe they will not regret the achievement.

A Letter from James Canning Fuller, of Skancatales, State of New York, to Joseph John Gurney. Dublin: Webb and Chapman.

THIS letter consists of a series of animadversions upon various insinuations against the American abolitionists, contained in a work of Mr Gurney's, entitled "Familiar Letters to Amelia Opie," recently printed for private circulation. The following extract contains the substance of Mr Gurney's charges:—

"When male and female itinerant lecturers are heard declaring that women have in all respects the same civil and political rights and duties as the stronger sex—that no resistance ought to be made, even by peaceable legal proceedings, to the violence of the thief or the murderer—that no allegiance is due from the Christian to any civil government whatsoever—that children are at liberty to follow their own courses, and that it is unlawful for a parent to punish them—that wives and husbands may lawfully separate when they are weary of each other's society—and that the agrarian law of olden time ought now to remodel the whole affair of property—when all these anomalous ideas are let loose, each in its turn, on an imaginative public, one cannot but tremble in the view of the consequences."

In reply to the first of these charges, Mr Fuller says he has heard or known of but three female public anti-slavery lecturers—two of them the daughters of Judge Grinke, of South Carolina. All of them, he says, "are too well known, and too much beloved for their moral and public worth, for any arrow from thy bow to hurt, wound, or lower them in the estimation of those who truly love the slave."

"To all the catalogue of crimes," continues Mr Fuller, "thou hast charged on male and female 'itinerants,' publicly engaged in the advocacy of the anti-slavery cause, I enter the plea of not guilty. * * * Thou never endangered the soles of thy shoes by attending an anti-slavery meeting, during all the years thou wert in America; therefore thy accusations must be grounded on hearsay; and yet to English readers they appear to be the result of well-ascertained facts, when the truth of the matter is, that they are all asseverations grounded on something, or it may be on nothing."

"From personal acquaintance with, I believe, most of the itinerant lecturers in New England, and having met them in council and in war, I do declare that I never heard any of them promulgate such doctrines as thou hast charged them with. It is deeply to be regretted, that in a work circulated amongst the 'higher orders' in England, the statement should be made by a person of thy standing in society, that the abolition movement in New England is conducted by male and female 'itinerants,' who publicly declare, among other things, that 'children are at liberty to follow their own courses, and that it is unlawful to punish them—that wives and husbands may lawfully separate, when they are weary of each other's society."

To this Mr Webb, in the introductory remarks, adds—"In short, J. J. G. has caricatured the sentiments he objects to. The early Friends were often persecuted in consequence of opinions that they held, which, though innocent in themselves, conveyed the idea of guilt when mis-stated by their enemies. His charges, in their nearest approach to truth, hold good with respect to a mere handful of the anti-slavery lecturers—and then, in their private capacity, not as lecturers on abolition. If they were all true, they do not justify or palliate the indifference or hostility of J. J. G. and others to the cause of immediate abolition."

The above is a brief outline of the points of dispute between Mr Gurney and Mr Fuller. The matter might have been suffered to remain in obscurity, did it not largely concern the character of a class of men, who, be these charges true or false, have given such noble proof of their intrepidity and self-denial, in enlisting their energies in support of a cause which exposes its advocates to the persecution, scorn, and hatred of a large proportion of the American public.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- Illuminated Magazine*, February.
- "The Way which some call Heresy." By A. JUKES.
- The Nature and Scriptural Propriety of what is termed Christian Union*. By R. W. OVERBURY.
- Home Missionary Magazine*, February.
- Old England*. Part 3. Charles Knight.
- Trial of Pedro de Zulueta*, jun. Second edition.
- The Pictorial Sunday Book*. Part 2. Charles Knight.
- The Morning of Life*. By a COUNTRY FARMER.
- Wit Bought*. By PETER PARLEY.
- Cheerful Cherry*. By PETER PARLEY.
- Soldiers' and Sailors' Magazine*.
- Church History*. A Poem. Part 1.
- Ancient Christianity*. Parts 1 to 9.
- Moments of Thought*. By S. A. BRADSHAW.
- England's Caesar: a Speech*. By Rev. HUGH M'NEILE, A.M.
- Popery at Madeira*. By JAMES LORD, Esq.

Religious Intelligence.

MANCHESTER.—The two baptist churches heretofore worshipping in York street and George street chapels have united in the former place, under the ministry of Mr C. Thompson. Religious services, in recognition of this union, were held on Sunday last, when Mr Acworth, A.M., principal of Horton college, presided.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF IRELAND.—On Monday evening, the 5th inst., a very numerous and highly respectable meeting assembled in Surrey chapel lecture-room, to receive the deputation of the Congregational Union, consisting of Dr Urwick, of Dublin, Messrs A. King, of Cork, and J. D. Smith, of Newry; Mr James Sherman in the chair. Several interesting and important statements were made by the speakers regarding the present condition of the sister country, and the claims of the Irish Congregational Union on British Christians. Powerful arguments were drawn from authentic history concerning the ancient Christianity of Ireland. A deep impression was produced by the concurrent testimony which was given of Ireland's spiritual destitution, and by the assurance that her people, even Roman Catholics, are open to the proclamation of the gospel. The chairman expressed his hearty concurrence in the sentiments advanced, and at the conclusion of the meeting a resolution was unanimously adopted in favour of the union, and an auxiliary formed (the first in the metropolis) to sustain its efforts. Several contributions were handed in.—*Patriot*. [On Tuesday a meeting of a like nature, over which Dr. Leifchild presided, was held at Craven chapel, when a resolution was unanimously passed, pledging support for the cause in Ireland.]

BARNARD CASTLE.—Mr Thomas Hamer, of Rotherham college, has received and accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation from the congregational church assembling in Hall street chapel, Barnard Castle, Durham, and lately under the care of Mr John Harrison, now of Northwich, Chester. Mr Hamer intends commencing his labours on the third Sabbath of July next.

PILL NEWPORT, MONMOUTHSHIRE.—The anniversary of the English chapel, in this town, took place on Lord's day, Jan. 28. Mr W. Davies, of Blackwood, preached in the morning and evening; Mr T. Gilman, of the Tabernacle, Newport, in the afternoon. The collection at the close of each service was very good.

BIRTHS.

Feb. 8, at Halstead, the wife of Mr B. JOHNSON, dissenting minister, of a son, still-born.

Feb. 8, the wife of Mr C. DUKES, A.M., dissenting minister, of Kingsland, of a daughter.

Feb. 8, the lady of J. Risdon BENNETT, M.D., of 24, Finsbury place, of a daughter.

Feb. 10, the wife of Mr G. E. NEWTH, surgeon, 110, Great Suffolk street, Borough, of a son.

Feb. 11, at Orsett, Essex, Mrs GEO. MACONACHIE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 1, at the Friends' meeting house, Kendal, JOHN WAITMAN, Esq., of Yealand Conyers, county of Lancaster, to HANNAH, eldest daughter of the late William WILSON, Esq., of Kendal.

Feb. 8, at the baptist chapel, Gildersome, Mr CALLEN CROWTHER, Dean hall, Morley, to HANNAH, the eldest daughter of the late Mr Joseph HOLDSWORTH, stone mason, Farnley Moorside, near Leeds.

Feb. 8, at the independent chapel, East Retford, by Mr Thos Odell, the pastor, Mr JOHN HARRISON, dissenting minister, of Ovenden, near Halifax, to SUSANNAH HARRIET, only daughter of Samuel THOROLD, Esq., of Welham.

Feb. 5, at the baptist chapel, Newport, Isle of Wight, by Mr Charles W. Vernon, Mr JAMES MURSELL to Miss ELIZA HARBOUR, both of West Cowes.

Feb. 6, at Cannon street meeting house, Birmingham, by Mr Thomas Swan, the pastor, Mr JOHN CONRY to Miss ANN CORBETT, both of that town.

Feb. 7, at Providence chapel, Ovenden, Yorkshire, Mr JAMES FIRTH, woolsorter, Holdsworth, to Miss MARY ANN BRIGGS, of Ovenden.

Feb. 7, at the superintendent registrar's office, Ross (Scotland), by license, Mr THOMAS BLAKE to Miss SUSAN ELLEN GORDON, both of Ross.

Feb. 8, at Tavistock, by Mr William ROOKER, ELIZABETH, his only daughter, to T. EDGECOMBE PARSON, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn fields and Upper Clapton.

Feb. 9, at Salem chapel, Burley, near Ottley, by Mr Joseph Boyd, minister of the place, Mr EDWARD JUKES, of Blackburn, Lancashire, to HARRIET, second daughter of John CLAPHAM, Esq., Hanover square, Leeds.

DEATHS.

Jan. 28, in the 84th year of her age, NANCY GREEN, of Birmingham, widow of Mr Joseph Green, baptist minister, of that town.

Jan. 31, in the 43rd year of her age, Mrs HANNAH BROADBENT, the late beloved wife of Mr F. B. Broadbent, one of the congregational ministers of Belper.

Feb. 2, in Fore street, Exeter, aged 5 years, HARRY JERWOOD, second son of Thomas Latimer, Esq., proprietor of the "Western Times."

Feb. 3, at Kingsdown, Bristol, after a short illness, occasioned by a paralytic seizure, YOUNG STURGE, a highly-valued member of the Society of Friends.

Feb. 6, Mrs MARY PEARS GUERRIER, wife of Mr S. Guerrier, Upper street, Islington, after a protracted season of suffering, which she was enabled to bear with Christian fortitude and resignation.

Feb. 9, aged 30, CAROLINE, the beloved wife of Mr J. H. BYLES, Hackney road, characterised by humble, simple dependence, which did not fail her in her last extremity.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, Feb. 9.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

COULSON, J., and PHIPPS, H., Clement's lane, shipping ironmongers.

BANKRUPTCIES.

THOMAS, O. W., Milk street, Cheapside, silk warehouseman.

ALDRED, JOHN, Nottingham, wholesale stationer.

MARCH 18: solicitors, Mr Bradshaw, Nottingham, and Messrs Mutteram and Giddy, Birmingham.

ETHERINGTON, JOSEPH, DOCKER, HENRY, and JOHNSON, CUTHERBERT, Quadrant, Regent street, lamp dealers, Feb. 23, March 21: solicitors, Messrs Clark and Davidson, Essex street, Strand.

LEONARD, SAMUEL WALKER, Frances street, butcher, Feb. 24, March 22: solicitors, Messrs Pain and Hatherley, Great Marlborough street.

LEWIS, WILLIAM, Bristol, carpenter, Feb. 23, March 22: solicitors, Messrs Gregory and Sons, Bristol.

MINISTER, EDWARD, Argyll place, Regent street, tailor, Feb. 15, March 19: solicitors, Messrs Hodgson and Burton, Salisbury street, Strand.

SCOTT, FREDRICK JAMES, St Albans, apothecary, Feb. 23, March 22: solicitors, Messrs Clark and Davidson, Essex street.

TERNDALE, CHRISTOPHER, and TOULSON, RICHARD, Westminster Bridge road, furnishing warehousemen, Feb. 20, March 26: solicitors, Messrs Sole and Sole, Aldermanbury.

SCOTCH QUOTATIONS.

GILLESPIE, J. and W., Falkirk, merchants, Feb. 16, March 8.

MACKAY, D. and J., Barnsdale, island of Skye, merchants, Feb. 19, March 18.

MUNRO, C., Dingwall, farmer, Feb. 14, March 6.

DIVIDENDS.

MARCH 1, Sewell, Paddington, victualler—March 1, Carpenter, Southampton, stationer—March 2, Porter, Nantwich, Cheshire, tailor—March 2, Bell, Basford, Nottinghamshire, hosier—March 4, Harris, Swansea, draper—Feb. 23, R. J., and J. Potter, Manchester, cotton spinners—March 5, R. and R. Moon, Greenfield, Lancashire, merchants—March 5, Whidborne, Liverpool, chemist—March 4, Fehr, Birmingham, draper.

Tuesday, Feb. 14th.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

The Independent chapel, East Retford, Nottinghamshire.

St Wilfrid's church, Hulme, Lancashire.

The Roman Catholic chapel, Richmond, Surrey.

Ducis chapel, Manchester.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

RHODES, JOSEPH, now of late of Leeds, woolstapler.

BANKRUPTCIES.

AMOS, THOMAS, 114, Kingsland road, builder, Feb. 26, March 27: solicitors, Messrs J. and W. Sheffield, 147, Leadenhall street.

BARRY, JOHN HOOSKE, late of St John's, New Brunswick, but now of Liverpool, merchant, Feb. 27, March 27: solicitors, Messrs Sharp and Jackson, Bedford row, London; and Messrs Miller and Peel, Liverpool.

FIELD, GEORGE, 2, Bond court, Walbrook, City, packer, Feb. 21, March 27: solicitor, Mr Cottrill, Throgmorton street, City.

FAULKNER, JOHN, Danvers street, Chelsea, builder, Feb. 22, March 29: solicitor, Mr H. Ward, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

HIGGINSON, THOMAS, Liverpool, pawnbroker, Feb. 23, March 26: solicitors, Mr J. N. G. Thompson, Liverpool; and Messrs Norris and Co., 19, Bartlett's buildings, Holborn, London.

LANG, RICHARD, Birstall, Yorkshire, tallow-chandler, Feb. 24, March 26: solicitors, Messrs Jaques and Edwards, Ely place, London; and Mr William Watts, Dewsbury.

LAY, THOMAS, Dudley, Worcestershire, grocer, February 21, March 25: solicitors, Mr Collis, Stourbridge; and Mr John Smith, Birmingham.

MARSH, EDWARD MANFIELD, 21, Mortimer street, Cavendish square, and 10, Stanhope street, Regent's park, upholsterer, February 24, March 26: solicitor, Mr Joseph Ivimey, 26, Chancery lane.

MILNER, JOHN, Brook street, New road, engine manufacturer, Feb. 22, March 29: solicitor, Mr Charles Rivington, 1, Fenchurch buildings, city.

TURNER, ROBERT, Woodsome Lees, and Highburton, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturer, February 26, March 27: solicitors, Messrs Clark and Co., Lincoln's inn fields, London; Mr R. T. Robinson, Huddersfield; and Mr Edward Bond, Leeds.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The quotations of the public securities have varied during the past week to the extent of about $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The unfortunate position in which the affairs of Spain are again placed induced some heavy sales of stock; as it may happen that, in order to put things upon a stable footing in that country, intervention may be necessary. There have been some extensive operations in most of the public securities. The government commissioners on one occasion extended their investments to £50,000; and upon other days they have taken to the amount of £10,000, £15,000, and up to £20,000. The purchases for the Savings Banks continue to form a marked feature in the operations of those functionaries. The settlement in the English stock market is fixed for the 27th inst.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	97	97	97	97	97	97
Ditto for Account	97	97	97	97	97	97
3 per cents Reduced	97	98	98	99	98	98
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cts. Reduced	103	103	103	103	103	103
New 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ percent....	102	102	102	102	102	102
Long Annuities ..	123	123	123	123	123	123
Bank Stock	192	193	193	193	193	193
India Stock	277	277	—	277	277	277
Exchequer Bills....	69pm	69pm	67pm	69pm	69pm	84pm
India Bonds.....	—	—	82pm	—	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.	
Austrian	115
Belgian	106
Brazilian	78
Buenos Ayres	34
Columbian	12
Danish	86
Dutch 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents	54
Ditto 5 per cents	101

RAILWAY SHARES.	
Birmingham and Derby	61
Birmingham & Gloucester	72
Blackwall	6
Bristol and Exeter	69
Cheltenham	

WOOL.

A very large amount of business continues to be done, and the prospects remain favourable. The sales of combing wools have been brisk, and prices have an upward tendency. Clothing wools sell more freely than of late, at a further advance on last week's prices; but neither of them equal to the quotations asked by the growers in the country. White Highland is in much request. The demand for all kinds of cross and Cheviots has been animated, and a general advance on all kinds. There was a good attendance at the public sales of foreign wool on the 9th inst. The East India, which were the principal class brought forward, were exceedingly good, and well got up. The competition for them was spirited, and all sold at an advance of about 0d. per lb. on late rates.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Feb. 10.—At per load of 36 trusses.	
Coarse Meadow .. 5s. to 6s.	New Clover Hay .. 6s. to 10s.
New ditto .. .	Old ditto .. .
Useful Old ditto .. 6s. .. 7s.	Oat Straw .. . 2s. .. 28
Fine Upland ditto 7s. .. 7s.	Wheat Straw .. . 2s. .. 31

COAL EXCHANGE. Feb. 12.

Stewart's, 20s. 3d.; Hetton's, 20s. 3d.; Braddell's Hetton's, 20s. 3d. Ships arrived this week, 15s.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, FEB. 13.

TEA.—18,000 packages were offered in auction, and about 6,000 were actually sold. The green sorts were in good demand, and went at rather higher rates. Congou, 11d. to 1s.; Pekoe Souchong, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 9d.; Twankay, 1s. 2d. to 2s. 4d.; Hyson, 2s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.; young do., 1s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; Pouchong, 8d. to 1s. 1d.

COFFEE.—900 bags plantation Ceylon sold in auction at former rates; fine ordinary selling at 7s. to 8s.; fine ordinary dark, 7s. to 7s. per cwt.

SUGAR.—There were not any public sales of British plantation to-day. The market was fully as high as on Friday last, and the trade bought about 500 hds. and tierces. The refined market was also very firm. Standard lumps were in demand at 7s., and brown grocery at 7s., per cwt. Best bonded crushed were firm at 26s. per cwt. 4,600 bags and 240 casks Mauritius sold in auction at rather easier rates. Good to fine yellow sold at 6s., to 6s. per cwt.; middling, 6s. to 6s.; middling to good grey, 5s. to 6s.; and fine brown, 5s. to 5s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—The market has rather a better appearance. St Petersburgh yellow candle is in demand at 4s. per cwt on the spot for the best quality.

Advertisements.

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LONDON PEACE SOCIETY. LECTURES.

TUESDAY, FEB. 20, 1844.—BARRICAN CHAPEL; by the Rev. JOHN BURNET, of Camberwell.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 1844.—WESLEYAN CHAPEL, GROSVENOR PLACE, CAMBERWELL; by the Rev. JOHN JEFFERSON, of Stoke Newington.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 1844.—REV. J. VINEY'S CHAPEL, BETHNAL GREEN; by the Rev. WILLIAM LASK, of Swanscombe. Lectures to commence at Seven o'clock in the Evening.

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